Piacevole!

~My Italian Cooking~

2

NAB_AT / ATSUKO WATANABE

piacevole!

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Characters

MALLOW KITAHARA

A GENIUS CHEF MANAGING THE ITALIAN RESTAURANT "TRATTORIA FESTA" WHILE STILL IN GRADE SCHOOL. HE'S GOT A SLIGHTLY DIFFICULT PERSONALITY!

MORINA NANASE

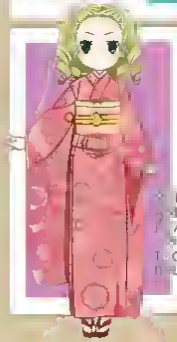
A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHO CAME TO WORK AT TRATTORIA FESTA ON IMPULSE

RURI FUJIKI

A SEXY LADY WORKING AT TRATTORIA FESTA AS THE HEAD OF ACCOUNTING. HER FAVORITE THINGS ARE WINE AND MONEY

KIRIHIDE KONNO

THE MAIN CHEF OF TRATTORIA FESTA, WITH A SERIOUS FETISH TOWARDS INGREDIENTS



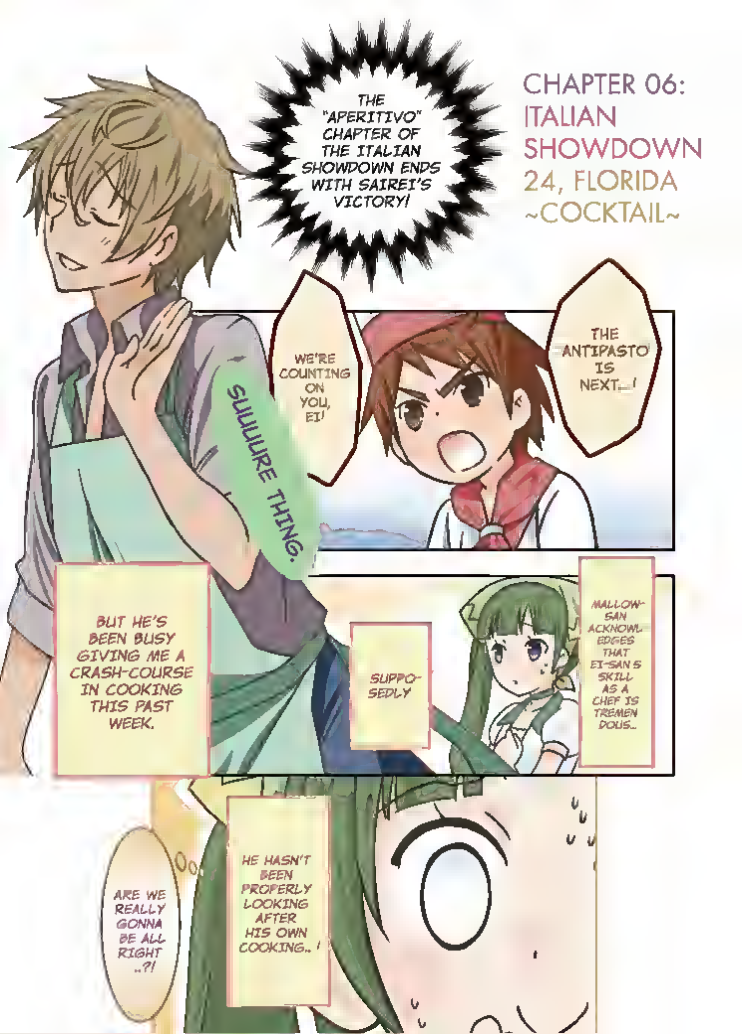
SARA TEIRI

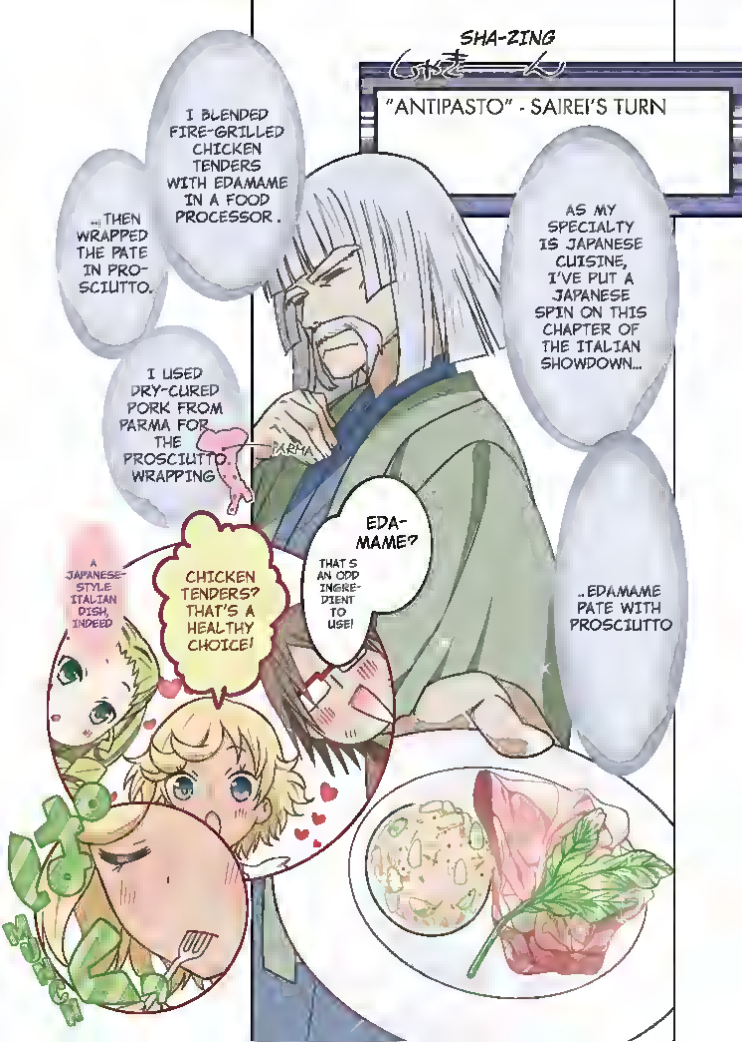
MALLOW'S CLASSMATE AND THE LADY OF THE JAPANESE RESTAURANT "SHIREI." SHE'S NOT TOO FOND OF ITALIAN FOOD!

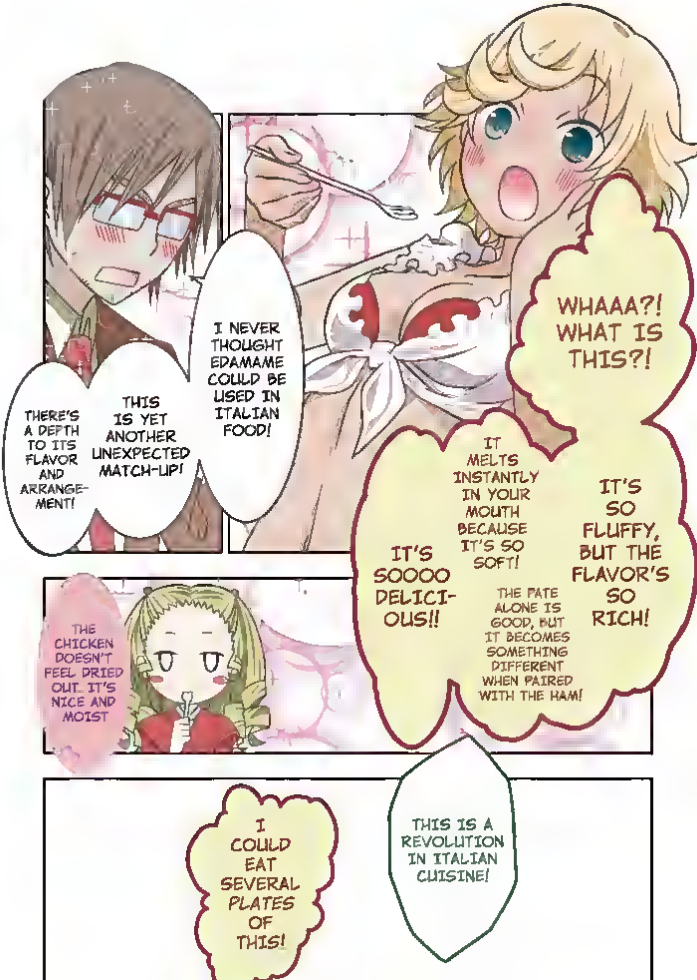
EI OREKI

HEAD OF DESSERTS AT TRATTORIA FESTA. A LADIES' MAN, TRAINED IN ITALY!

piacevole!

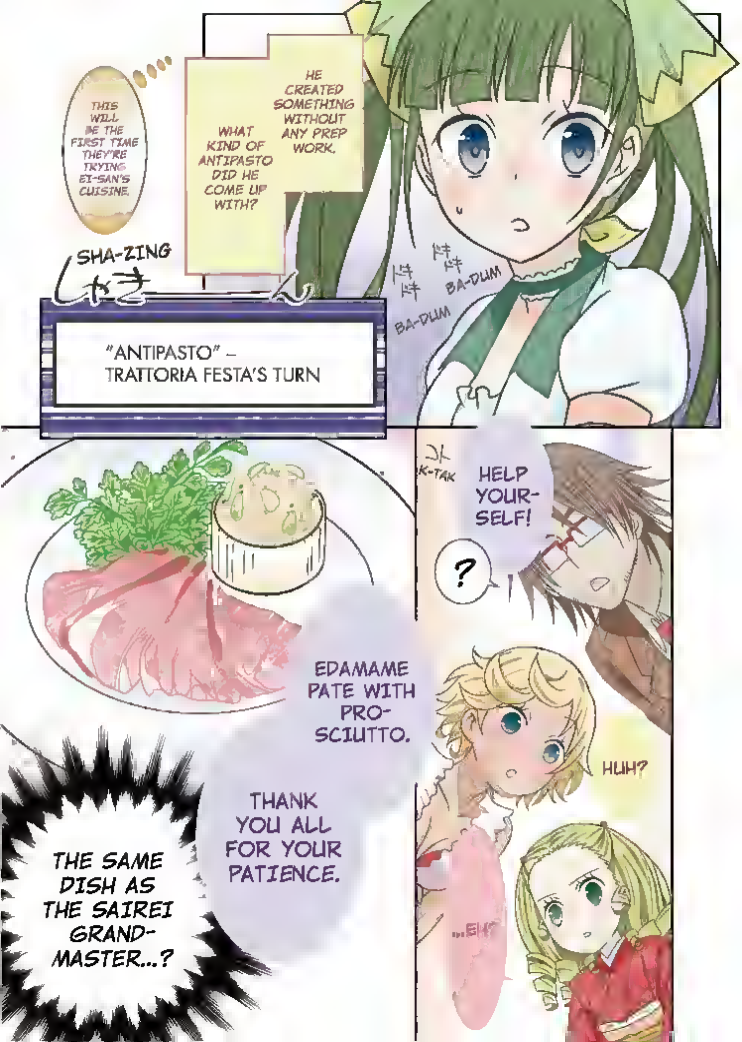

THE "APERITIVO" CHAPTER OF THE ITALIAN SHOWDOWN ENDS WITH SAIREI'S VICTORY!
CHAPTER 06: ITALIAN SHOWDOWN
24, FLORIDA ~COCKTAIL~
SUUURE THING.
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, EI!
THE ANTIPASTO IS NEXT...!
BUT HE'S BEEN BUSY GIVING ME A CRASH-COURSE IN COOKING THIS PAST WEEK.
SUPPO-SEDLY
MALLOW-SAN ACKNOWL-EDGES THAT EI-SAN'S SKILL AS A CHEF IS TREMEN-DOUS..
HE HASN'T BEEN PROPERLY LOOKING AFTER HIS OWN COOKING..!
ARE WE REALLY GONNA BE ALL RIGHT ..?!

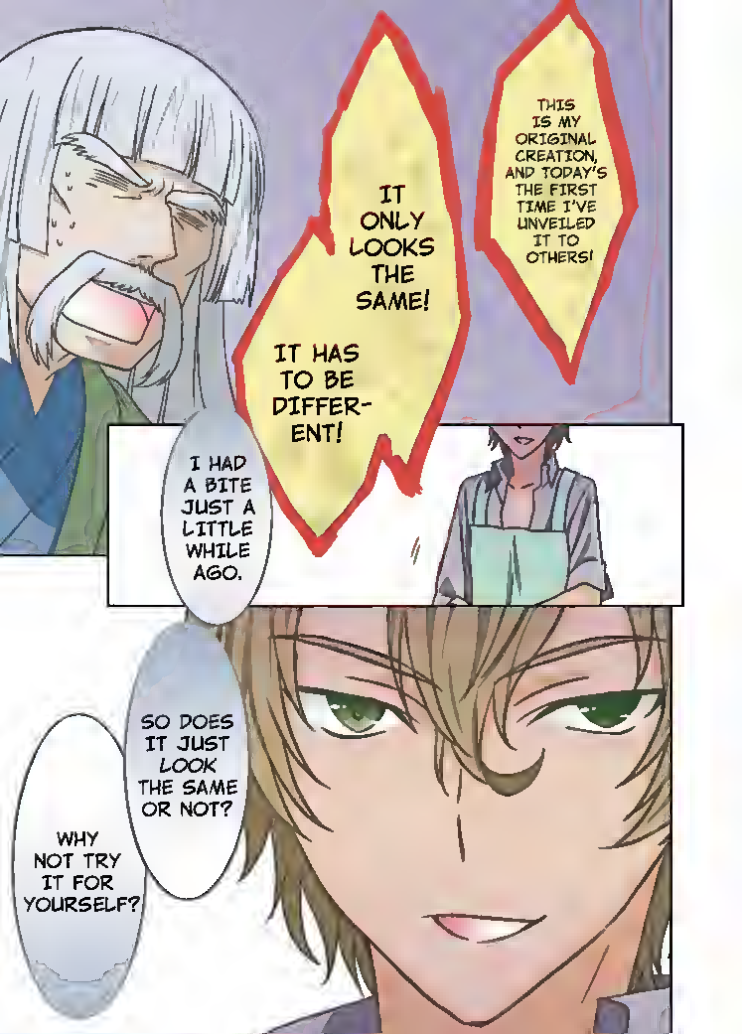

SHA-ZING
"ANTIPASTO" - SAIREI'S TURN
AS MY SPECIALTY IS JAPANESE CUISINE, I'VE PUT A JAPANESE SPIN ON THIS CHAPTER OF THE ITALIAN SHOWDOWN...
I BLENDED FIRE-GRILLED CHICKEN TENDERS WITH EDAMAME IN A FOOD PROCESSOR.
...THEN WRAPPED THE PATE IN PROSCIUTTO.
I USED DRY-CURED PORK FROM PARMA FOR THE PROSCIUTTO WRAPPING.
KRHA
EDA-MAME?
THAT'S AN ODD INGREDIENT TO USE!
CHICKEN TENDERS? THAT'S A HEALTHY CHOICE!
A JAPANESE-STYLE ITALIAN DISH, INDEED
..EDAMAME PATE WITH PROSCIUTTO


WHAAA?! WHAT IS THIS?!
I NEVER THOUGHT EDAMAME COULD BE USED IN ITALIAN FOOD!
THIS IS YET ANOTHER UNEXPECTED MATCH-UP!
THERE'S A DEPTH TO ITS FLAVOR AND ARRANGEMENT!
IT'S SOOOO DELICI-OUS!!
IT MELTS INSTANTLY IN YOUR MOUTH BECAUSE IT'S SO SOFT!
IT'S SO FLUFFY, BUT THE FLAVOR'S SO RICH!
THE PATE ALONE IS GOOD, BUT IT BECOMES SOMETHING DIFFERENT WHEN PAIRED WITH THE HAM!
THE CHICKEN DOESN'T FEEL DRIED OUT. IT'S NICE AND MOIST
THIS IS A REVOLUTION IN ITALIAN CUISINE!
I COULD EAT SEVERAL PLATES OF THIS!

EI, YOU GOTTA-
HOW ABOUT IT TASTE..?
ERK...
THEY LOVE IT...
LOOKS YUMMY...
カラッ
GONE
HUH?
LEMME HAVE A BITE.
EIIII!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DO-ING?!
HMM... MMM! THIS IS DELICI-OUS!
IN-DIRECT ...!

NO WORRIES, MALLOW. JUST WAIT RIGHT THERE.
SWISH
THAT? YOU MEAN EI-SAN?
HE'S SUPER HOT!
IS HE SEEING ANYONE?
WH-WH-WHA?! MORIRIN, WHO WAS THAT?!
I D-DON'T KNOW I DON'T THINK HE'S...
FOR REALS? HE'S FREE? MAYBE I SHOULD GO AFTER HIM?
KII-CHAN, WEREN'T YOU SEEING SOMEONE FROM A DIFFERENT SCHOOL...?
OH, HIM? WE SPLIT! HE'S A JERK, ANYWAY!
MORIRIN, ARE YOU INTERESTED IN KII SAMA?
KUNIDO BANG
EI! YOU MADE SOMETHING?
SORTA
KTUNK
APOLOGIES FOR THE WAIT
GASP


THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THEY'RE TRYING EI-SAN'S CUISINE.
WHAT KIND OF ANTIPASTO DID HE COME UP WITH?
HE CREATED SOMETHING WITHOUT ANY PREP WORK.
SHA-ZING
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
"ANTIPASTO" – TRATTORIA FESTA'S TURN
K-TAK
HELP YOUR-SELF!
?
EDAMAME PATE WITH PRO-SCIUTTO.
HUH?
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PATIENCE.
THE SAME DISH AS THE SAIREI GRAND-MASTER...?


THIS IS MY ORIGINAL CREATION, AND TODAY'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE UNVEILED IT TO OTHERS!
IT ONLY LOOKS THE SAME!
IT HAS TO BE DIFFER-ENT!
I HAD A BITE JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
SO DOES IT JUST LOOK THE SAME OR NOT?
WHY NOT TRY IT FOR YOURSELF?

TRATTORIA FESTA'S ANTIPASTO..

..EDAMAME PATE WITH PRO-SCIUTTO.

PLEASE TRY IT FOR YOURSELF.

MUNCH

もぐっ

ONCE THE JUDGES TRY IT, THEY'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH...

IT'S COMMON IN THE CULINARY WORLD FOR A DISH TO LOOK SIMILAR, YET TASTE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

THIS IS JUST A BLUFF BY A YOUNG CHEF.

!!
!!!
IT TASTES EXACTLY THE SAME...!
...OR RATHER...
...THIS ONE'S... BETTER...?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!
DON'T THEY TASTE THE SAME...?!
OLD MAN, WHAT'S GOING ON...?!

BUT... HOW DO I DE-SCRIBE IT?
FESTA'S PATE IS SWEETER...
...AND ITS JUICES MATCH MORE SOLIDLY WITH THE PROSCIUTTO.
...
INDEED... THIS PATE...
...TASTES JUST LIKE MINE...!
I THOUGHT THE FLAVORING SEEMED A BIT WEAK. SO I TRIED BOILING MINE IN BLACK TEA.
BITE
SO ALL I DID WAS SEAR THE SURFACE, AND LEFT THE INSIDE RARE.
TENDERS ARE THE ONLY KIND OF CHICKEN MEAT YOU COULD EAT RAW.
I ALSO THOUGHT IT A WASTE TO COOK THE CHICKEN THOROUGHLY
YOU BOILED YOUR EDAMAME IN HOT WATER, AS ONE NORMALLY DOES, NO?
LET ME ASK YOU, SIR.
I SEE!
THIS SWEETNESS IS THE FLAVOR OF BLACK TEA!

...GOES TO TRATTORIA FESTA!

ITALIAN SHOWDOWN, THE "ANTIPASTO" CHAPTER...

YEAAAH!!

HE'S SKILLED ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT WHICH SEASONINGS TO USE AND WHICH TECHNIQUES TO REPRODUCE AFTER JUST ONE BITE.

THIS IS A TASK EASIER SAID THAN DONE

TO FIND SUCH A CHEF IN THIS LITTLE TRATTORIA...!

HE POSSESSES A SUPERFINE SENSE OF TASTE, BENEFITTED BY A PERFECT PITCH.

GO-GO-GUMMI!

YUYUYU!!

ANTIPASTO

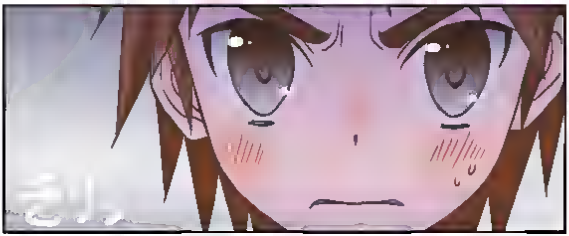
PASTA

PASTA

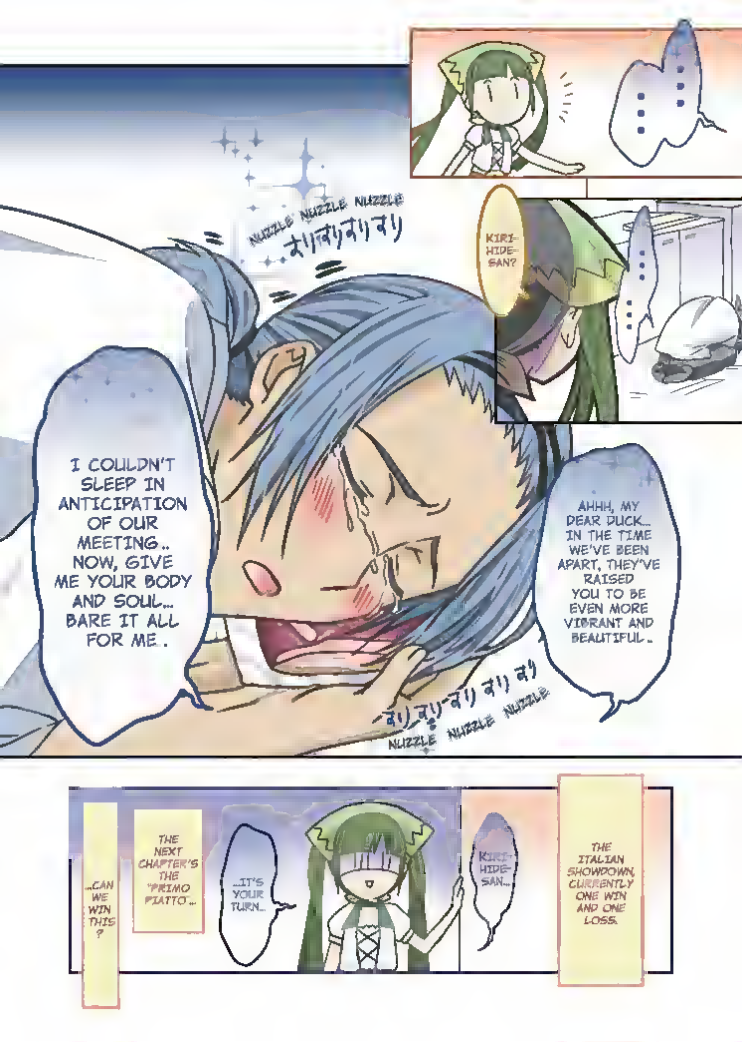
EI-SAMA, SOOOO COOL!

THINGS WHY THIS IS SO JUICY

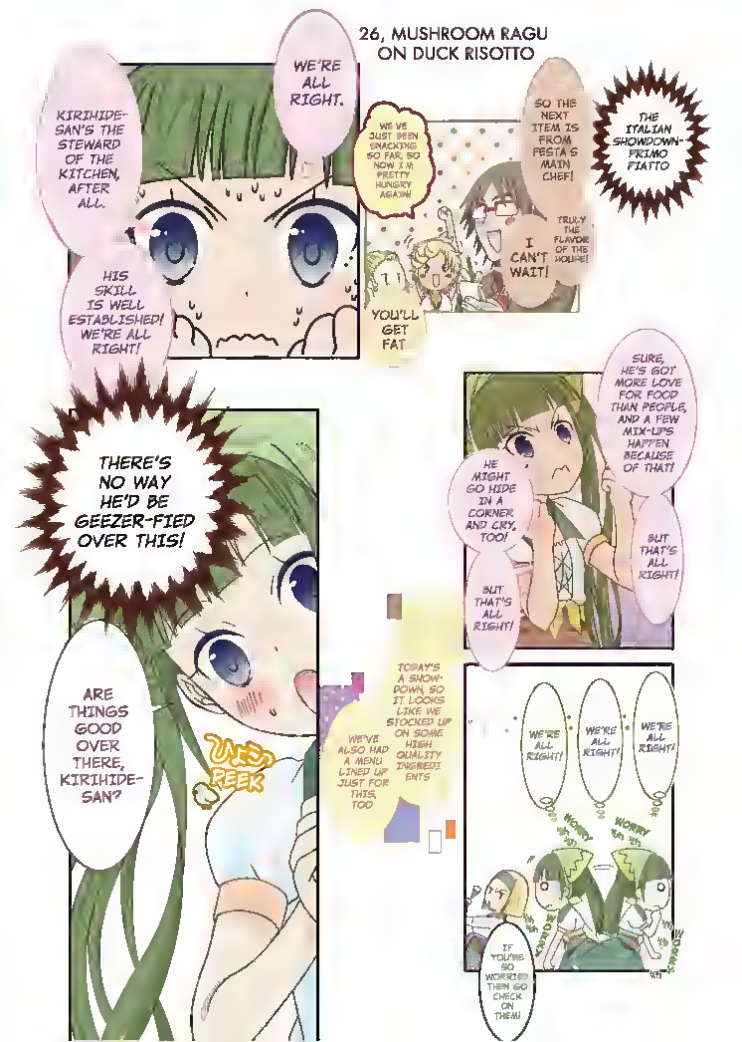
YAAAY!
I DID IT, MORINA-CHAN!
PRAISE ME! C'MON!
WAU-GH!
HE DIDN'T EVEN PRACTICE FOR THIS SHOWDOWN.
HE TOOK THE FOOD IN FRONT OF HIM ONE STEP FURTHER, ON THE SPOT...
...AND WON THE MATCH EASILY

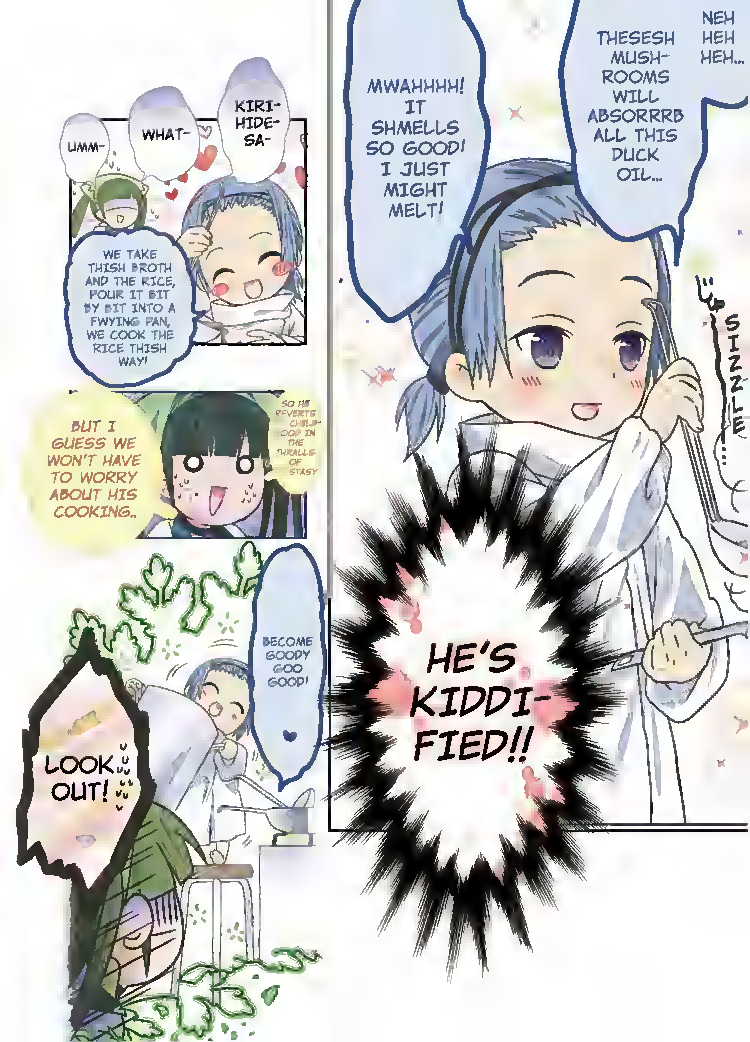


HOW'S KIRI-HIDE?
OH, HE MIGHT BE IN THE KIT-CHEN
I'LL TAKE A LOOK
SNRK
I'M OKAY
NEXT IS THE "PRIMO PIATTO."
SNEEZE!
SNEEZE!
UHH.
OCKNEEZE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MALLOW-SAN?

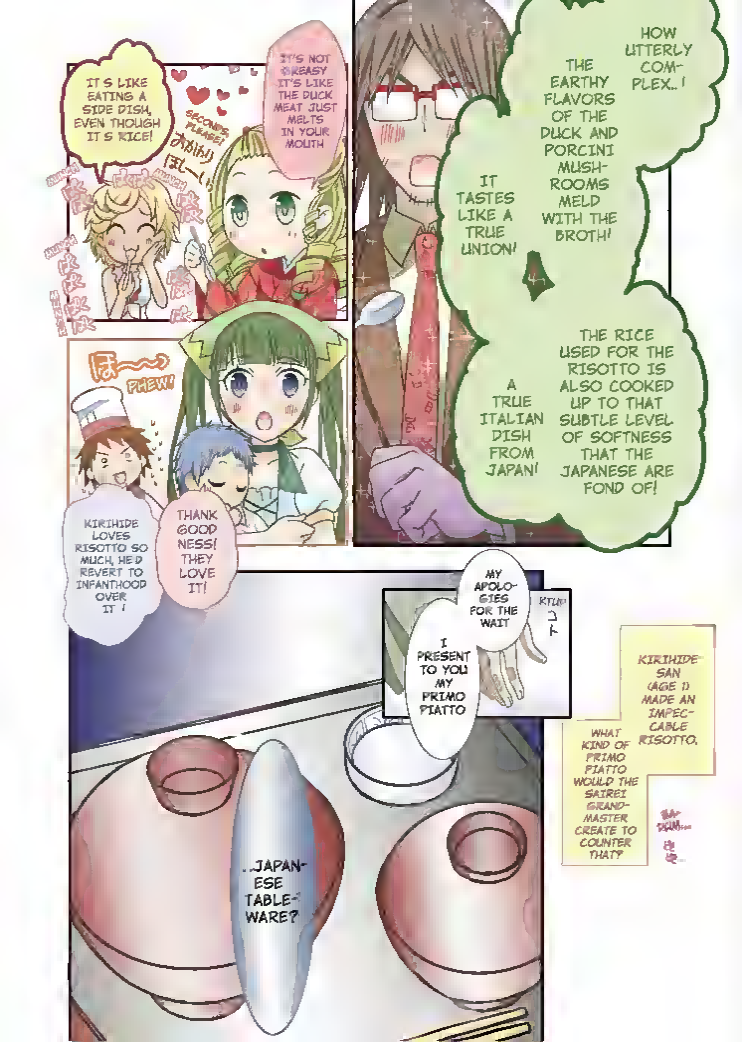

NUZZLE NUZZLE NUZZLE
すりすりすりすり
KIRI-HIDE-SAN?
I COULDN'T SLEEP IN ANTICIPATION OF OUR MEETING.. NOW, GIVE ME YOUR BODY AND SOUL... BARE IT ALL FOR ME.
AHHH, MY DEAR DUCK... IN THE TIME WE'VE BEEN APART, THEY'VE RAISED YOU TO BE EVEN MORE VIBRANT AND BEAUTIFUL..
すりすりすりすり
NUZZLE NUZZLE NUZZLE
...CAN WE WIN THIS?
THE NEXT CHAPTER'S THE "PRIMO PIATTO"...
...IT'S YOUR TURN...
KIRI-HIDE-SAN...
THE ITALIAN SHOWDOWN, CURRENTLY ONE WIN AND ONE LOSS.

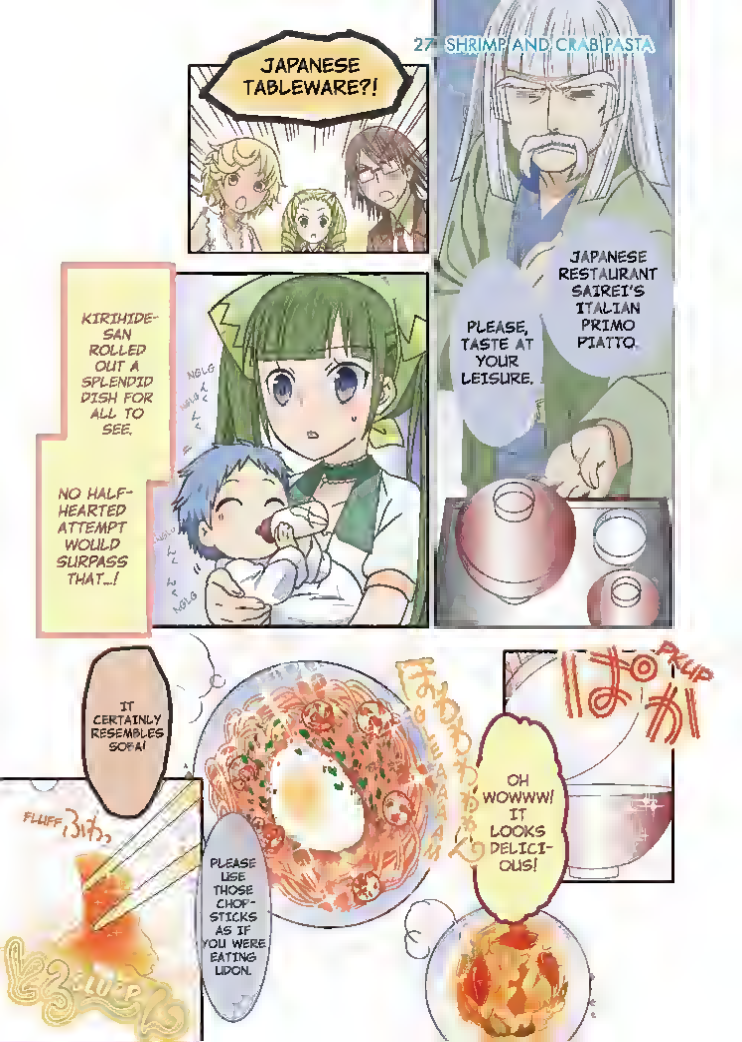
26, MUSHROOM RAGU ON DUCK RISOTTO

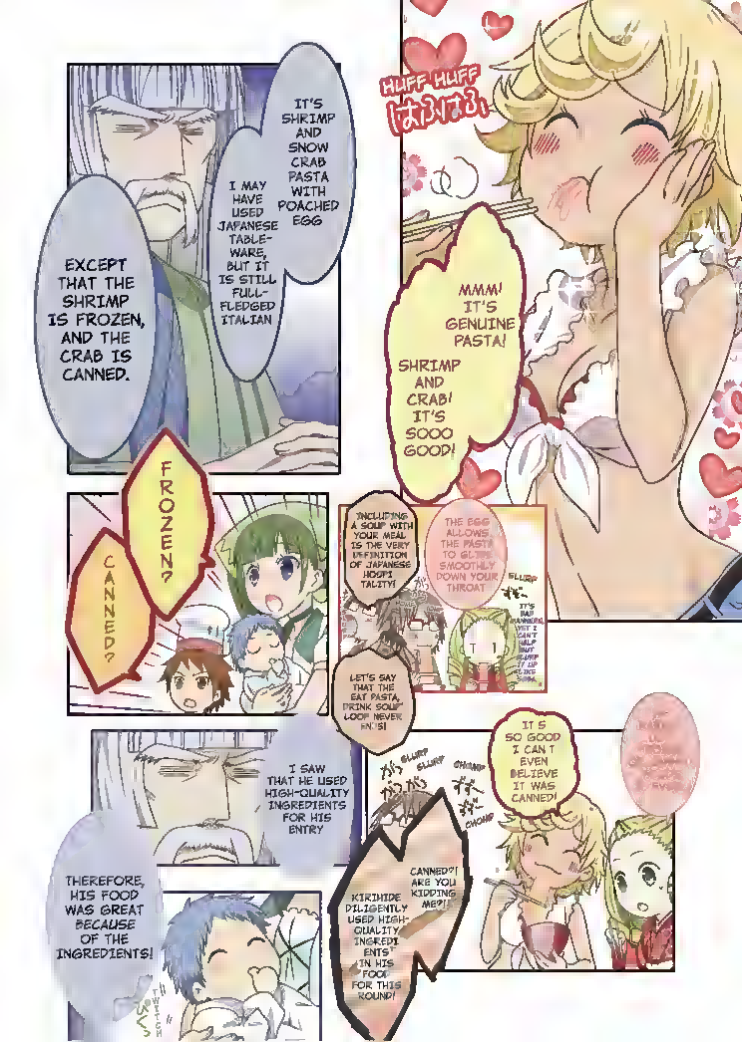

KIRIHIDE-SAN'S THE STEWARD OF THE KITCHEN, AFTER ALL.
WE'RE ALL RIGHT.
HIS SKILL IS WELL ESTABLISHED! WE'RE ALL RIGHT!
WE'VE JUST BEEN SNACKING SO FAR, SO NOW I'M PRETTY HUNGRY AGAIN!
YOU'LL GET FAT
SO THE NEXT ITEM IS FROM PESTA'S MAIN CHEF!
I CAN'T WAIT!
TRULY THE FLAVOR OF THE HOUR!
THE ITALIAN SHOWDOWN- PRIMO PIATTO
SURE, HE'S GOT MORE LOVE FOR FOOD THAN PEOPLE, AND A FEW MIX-UPS HAPPEN BECAUSE OF THAT!
BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT!
HE MIGHT GO HIDE IN A CORNER AND CRY, TOO!
BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT!
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D BE GEEZER-FIED OVER THIS!
ARE THINGS GOOD OVER THERE, KIRIHIDE-SAN?
UNYO PEEK
TODAY'S A SHOW-DOWN, SO IT LOOKS LIKE WE STOCKED UP ON SOME HIGH QUALITY INGREDI ENTS
WE'VE ALSO HAD A MENU LINED UP JUST FOR THIS, TOO
WE'RE ALL RIGHT!
WE'RE ALL RIGHT!
WE'RE ALL RIGHT!
WORRY
WORRY
WORRY
IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED THEM GO CHECK ON THEM!

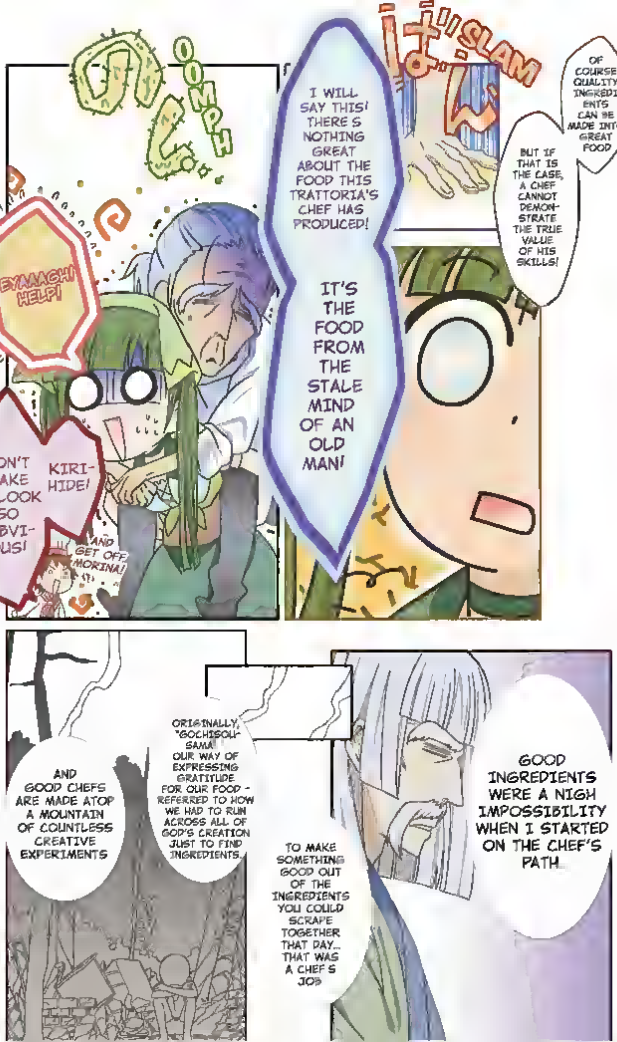

NEH HEH HEH...
THESESH MUSH-ROOMS WILL ABSORRRB ALL THIS DUCK OIL...
MWAHHHH! IT SHMELLS SO GOOD! I JUST MIGHT MELT!
SIZZLE...
HE'S KIDDI-FIED!!
BECOME GOODY GOO GOOD!
LOOK OUT!
KIRI-HIDE-SA-
WHAT-
UMM-
WE TAKE THISH BROTH AND THE RICE, POUR IT BIT BY BIT INTO A FWYING PAN, WE COOK THE RICE THISH WAY!
BUT I GUESS WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIS COOKING..
SO HIS REVERTS CHILD-HOOD IN THE WHALLE OF STASY

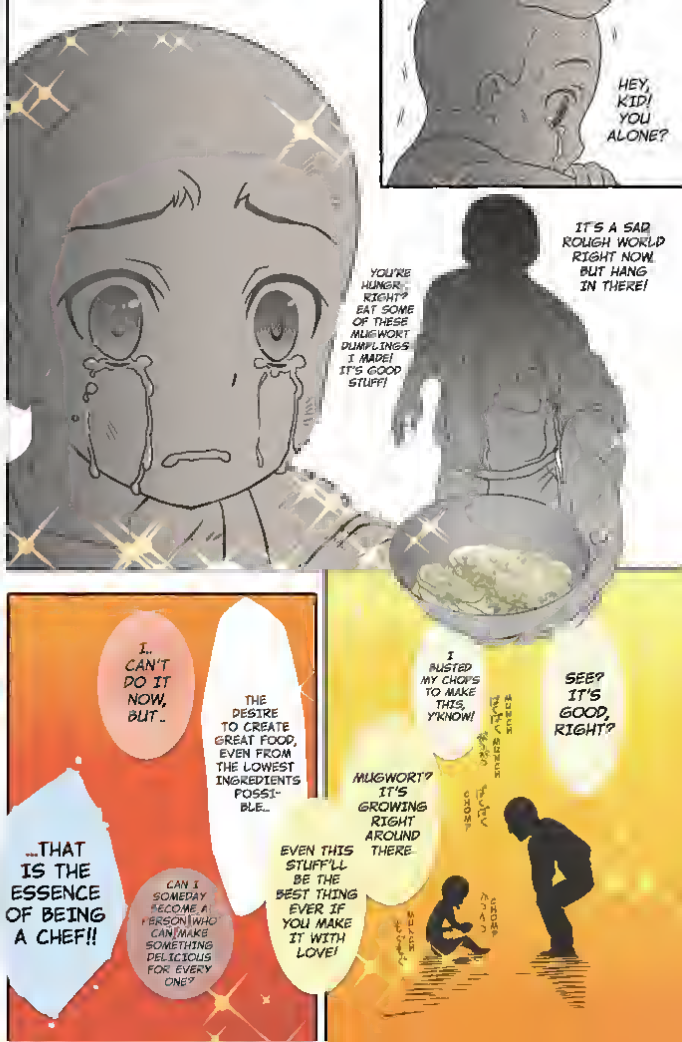
AHHH--
AHH--
AHH--
AHHHH--
DAHH!
TRATTORIA FESTA'S PRIMO PIATTO, MUSHROOM RAGU ON DUCK RISOTTO
THAT'S WHAT HE CALLS IT...
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
MY GOD!
THIS TRAT-TORIA'S MAIN CHEF IS THIS BABY?! ON TOP OF THE MANAGER BEING A GRADE SCHOOLER?!
N-NO...
THERE'S A BACK STORY, AND...
I LOVE RISOTTO!
RAGU IS A STEW LIKE SAUCE, YES?
IT SMELLS ABSO-LUTELY LOVELY...!
MUNCH

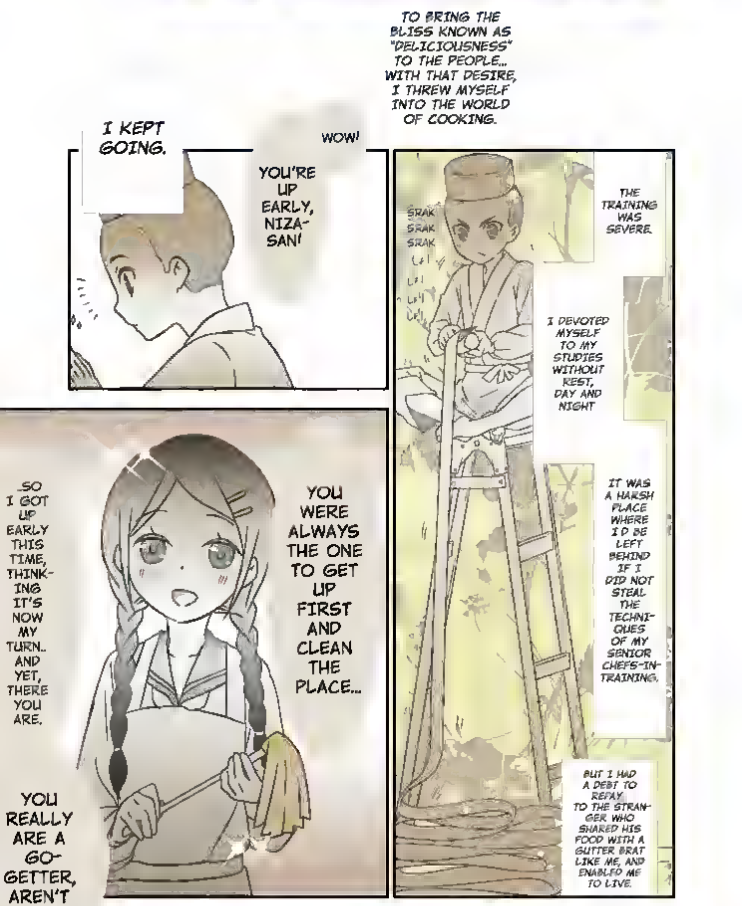

IT'S NOT SWEASY! IT'S LIKE THE DUCK MEAT JUST MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH
SECONDS, PLEASE!
IT IS LIKE EATING A SIDE DISH, EVEN THOUGH IT'S RICE!
HOW UTTERLY COM-PLEX..!
THE EARTHY FLAVORS OF THE DUCK AND PORCINI MUSH-ROOMS MELD WITH THE BROTH!
IT TASTES LIKE A TRUE UNION!
THE RICE USED FOR THE RISOTTO IS ALSO COOKED UP TO THAT SUBTLE LEVEL OF SOFTNESS THAT THE JAPANESE ARE FOND OF!
A TRUE ITALIAN DISH FROM JAPAN!
PHEW!
KIRIHIDE LOVES RISOTTO SO MUCH, HE'D REVERT TO INFANTHOOD OVER IT!
THANK GOOD NESS! THEY LOVE IT!
MY APOLO-GIES FOR THE WAIT
I PRESENT TO YOU MY PRIMO PIATTO
KIRIHIDE-SAN (AGE 1) MADE AN IMPEC-CABLE RISOTTO.
WHAT KIND OF PRIMO PIATTO WOULD THE SAIREI GRAND-MASTER CREATE TO COUNTER THAT?
..JAPAN-ESE TABLE-WARE?

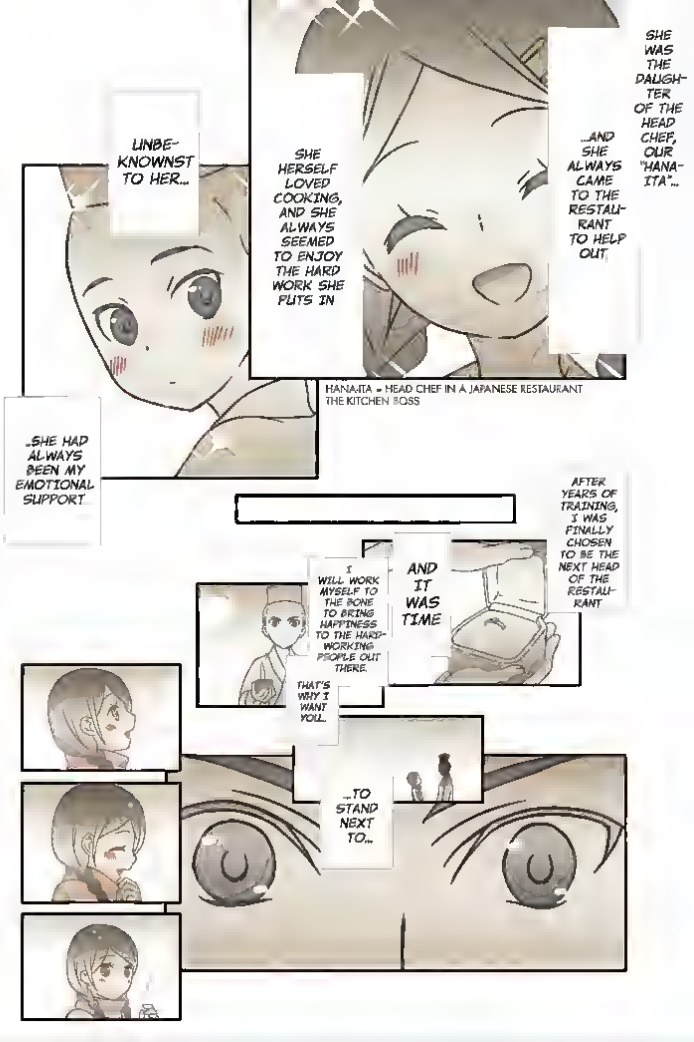

JAPANESE TABLEWARE?!
JAPANESE RESTAURANT SAIREI'S ITALIAN PRIMO PIATTO.
PLEASE, TASTE AT YOUR LEISURE.
KIRIHIDE-SAN ROLLED OUT A SPLENDID DISH FOR ALL TO SEE.
NO HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPT WOULD SURPASS THAT...!
NGLG
PUFF
IT CERTAINLY RESEMBLES SOFA!
FLUFF
PLEASE USE THOSE CHOP-STICKS AS IF YOU WERE EATING UDON.
SLURP
OH WOWWW! IT LOOKS DELICI-OUS!
PUUP

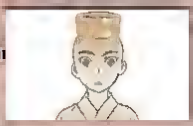

IT'S SHRIMP AND SNOW CRAB PASTA WITH POACHED EGG
I MAY HAVE USED JAPANESE TABLE-WARE, BUT IT IS STILL FULL-FLEDGED ITALIAN
EXCEPT THAT THE SHRIMP IS FROZEN, AND THE CRAB IS CANNED.
HUFF HUFF
はふはふ
MMM! IT'S GENUINE PASTA!
SHRIMP AND CRAB! IT'S SOOO GOOD!
FROZEN?
CANNED?
INCLUDING A SOUP WITH YOUR MEAL IS THE VERY DEFINITION OF JAPANESE HOSPITALITY!
THE EGG ALLOWS THE PASTA TO GLIDE SMOOTHLY DOWN YOUR THROAT
SLURP
IT'S SO AWKWARD, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT SLURP IT UP JUST LIKE SOBA
LET'S SAY THAT THE EAT PASTA, DRINK SOUP LOOP NEVER ENDS!
I SAW THAT HE USED HIGH-QUALITY INGREDIENTS FOR HIS ENTRY
THEREFORE, HIS FOOD WAS GREAT BECAUSE OF THE INGREDIENTS!
KIRIHIDE DILIGENTLY USED HIGH-QUALITY INGREDIENTS IN HIS FOOD FOR THIS ROUND!
CANNED?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
SLURP
SLURP
CHUMP
CHOMP
IT IS SO GOOD I CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE IT WAS CANNED!
BUT, TO THINK THAT IT WAS CANNED...
EVEN!


OOMPH
EYAAAGH! HELP!
DON'T MAKE IT LOOK SO OBVIOUS!
KIRIHIDE!
AND GET OFF MORINA!
I WILL SAY THIS! THERE'S NOTHING GREAT ABOUT THE FOOD THIS TRATTORIA'S CHEF HAS PRODUCED!
IT'S THE FOOD FROM THE STALE MIND OF AN OLD MAN!
SLAM
BUT IF THAT IS THE CASE, A CHEF CANNOT DEMONSTRATE THE TRUE VALUE OF HIS SKILLS!
OF COURSE QUALITY INGREDIENTS CAN BE MADE INTO GREAT FOOD
GOOD INGREDIENTS WERE A NIGH IMPOSSIBILITY WHEN I STARTED ON THE CHEF'S PATH...
TO MAKE SOMETHING GOOD OUT OF THE INGREDIENTS YOU COULD SCRAPE TOGETHER THAT DAY... THAT WAS A CHEF'S JOB
ORIGINALLY, "GOCHISOU-SAMA" OUR WAY OF EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR OUR FOOD - REFERRED TO HOW WE HAD TO RUN ACROSS ALL OF GOD'S CREATION JUST TO FIND INGREDIENTS...
AND GOOD CHEFS ARE MADE ATOP A MOUNTAIN OF COUNTLESS CREATIVE EXPERIMENTS

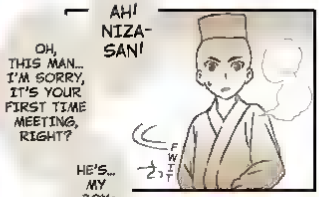

HEY, KID! YOU ALONE?
IT'S A SAD ROUGH WORLD RIGHT NOW. BUT HANG IN THERE!
YOU'RE HUNGRY, RIGHT? EAT SOME OF THESE MUGWORT DUMPLINGS I MADE! IT'S GOOD STUFF!
I.. CAN'T DO IT NOW, BUT..
THE DESIRE TO CREATE GREAT FOOD, EVEN FROM THE LOWEST INGREDIENTS POSSI-BLE...
...THAT IS THE ESSENCE OF BEING A CHEF!!
CAN I SOMEDAY BECOME A PERSON WHO CAN MAKE SOMETHING DELICIOUS FOR EVERY ONE?
I BUSTED MY CHOPS TO MAKE THIS, Y'KNOW!
SEE? IT'S GOOD, RIGHT?
MUGWORT? IT'S GROWING RIGHT AROUND THERE
EVEN THIS STUFF'LL BE THE BEST THING EVER IF YOU MAKE IT WITH LOVE!

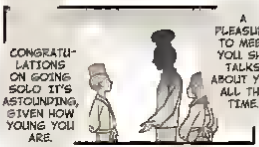

TO BRING THE BLISS KNOWN AS "DELICIOUSNESS" TO THE PEOPLE... WITH THAT DESIRE, I THREW MYSELF INTO THE WORLD OF COOKING.
I KEPT GOING.
WOW!
YOU'RE UP EARLY, NIZA-SAN!
SRAK SRAK SRAK
THE TRAINING WAS SEVERE.
I DEVOTED MYSELF TO MY STUDIES WITHOUT REST, DAY AND NIGHT
IT WAS A HARSH PLACE WHERE I'D BE LEFT BEHIND IF I DID NOT STEAL THE TECHNIQUES OF MY SENIOR CHEFS-IN-TRAINING.
BUT I HAD A DEBT TO REPAY. TO THE STRANGER WHO SHARED HIS FOOD WITH A GUTTER BRAT LIKE ME, AND ENABLED ME TO LIVE.
SO I GOT UP EARLY THIS TIME, THINKING IT'S NOW MY TURN.. AND YET, THERE YOU ARE.
YOU WERE ALWAYS THE ONE TO GET UP FIRST AND CLEAN THE PLACE...
YOU REALLY ARE A GO-GETTER, AREN'T YOU?


SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE HEAD CHEF, OUR "HANAITA"...
...AND SHE ALWAYS CAME TO THE RESTAURANT TO HELP OUT.
SHE HERSELF LOVED COOKING, AND SHE ALWAYS SEEMED TO ENJOY THE HARD WORK SHE PUTS IN
UNBEKNOWNST TO HER...
HANAITA = HEAD CHEF IN A JAPANESE RESTAURANT
THE KITCHEN BOSS
...SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN MY EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.
AFTER YEARS OF TRAINING, I WAS FINALLY CHOSEN TO BE THE NEXT HEAD OF THE RESTAURANT
AND IT WAS TIME
I WILL WORK MYSELF TO THE BONE TO BRING HAPPINESS TO THE HARD-WORKING PEOPLE OUT THERE.
THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU...
...TO STAND NEXT TO...



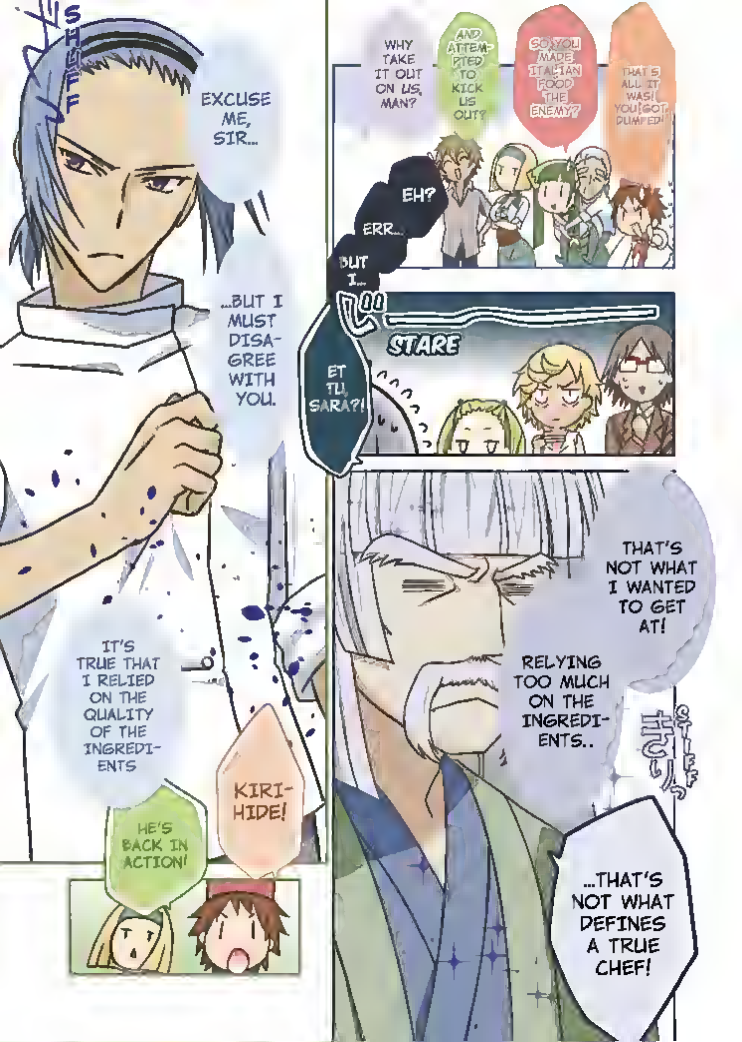
ITALIAN?


AH! NIZA-SAN!
OH, THIS MAN... I'M SORRY, IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME MEETING, RIGHT?
FWIT
HE'S... MY BOY-FRIEND


CONGRATU-LATIONS ON GOING SOLO IT'S ASTOUNDING, GIVEN HOW YOUNG YOU ARE.
A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU! SHE TALKS ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME.

...DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT? WESTERN FOODSTUFFS LIKE SPAGHETTI AND PIZZA PIE?
ACTUALLY, I'M ALSO A CHEF BY TRADE, AND...
I WORK AT WHAT THEY CALL AN "ITALIAN" RESTAURANT.

WANNA BUNDLE YOURSELF UP WITH THIS? IT'S WARM!
IT'S COLD
YOU DON'T HEAR ABOUT IT TOO MUCH, DO YOU?
THEY SAY IT'S REALLY GOOD
SUPPOSED TO DEDICATE YOURSELF TO JAPANESE FOOD? AS THE DAUGHTER OF THE HEAD MASTER?
I WEREN'T YOU.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AN ITALIAN CHEF?
WE'RE BOTH ON THE ROAD TO BEING CHEFS.
LET'S WORK HARD TOWARDS THAT GOAL!
IT'S NOT ITALIAN FOOD'S FAULT!
YOU'RE JUST HOLDING A GRUDGE!
LIKE HELL I CAN WORK LIKE YOU!
ALL BY MYSELF? WHILE YOU'RE WITH HIM?
"LET'S WORK HARD TOWARDS THAT GOAL"?
ばん
WHAM

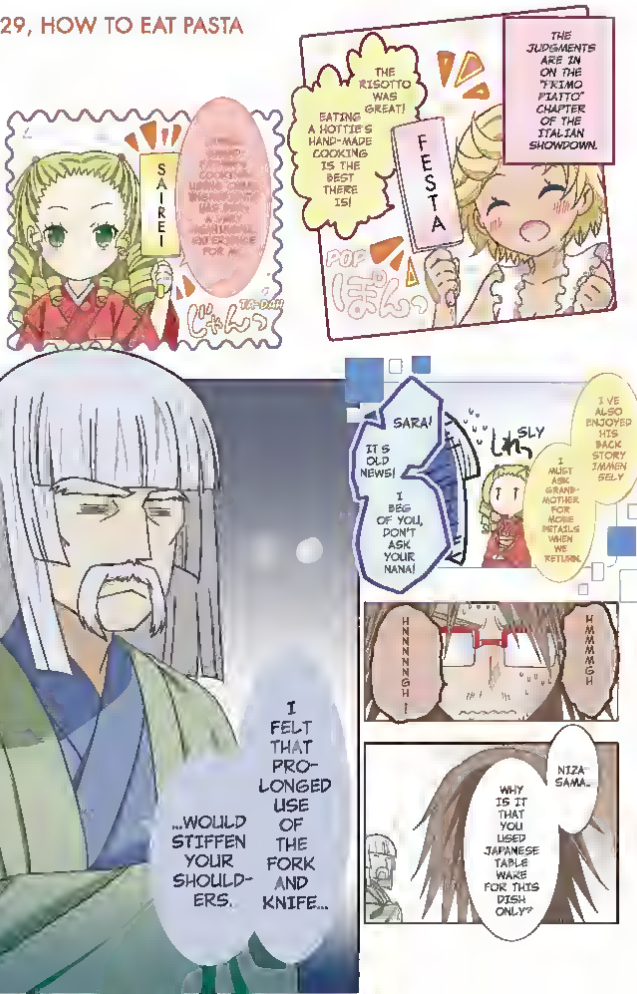

CHEF
EXCUSE ME, SIR...
...BUT I MUST DISA-GREE WITH YOU.
IT'S TRUE THAT I RELIED ON THE QUALITY OF THE INGREDI-ENTS
KIRI-HIDE!
HE'S BACK IN ACTION!
WHY TAKE IT OUT ON US, MAN?
AND ATTEMP-TED TO KICK US OUT?
SO YOU MADE ITALIAN FOOD THE ENEMY?
THAT'S ALL IT WAS! YOU GOT DUMPED!
EH?
ERR...
BUT I...
STARE
ET TU, SARA?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO GET AT!
RELYING TOO MUCH ON THE INGREDI-ENTS..
...THAT'S NOT WHAT DEFINES A TRUE CHEF!

BUT IN ORDER TO FURTHER DRAW OUT THE GREATNESS IN THESE INGRED-IENTS...
...WE RISK OUR LIVES!
IN CARING FOR THEM!
AND THAT CARE ABSO-LUTELY RE-QUIRES A CHEF'S KNOWL-EDGE, EXPERI ENCE, AND SKILL!

"WE RISK OUR LIVES!-?
WHEN HE SAYS IT, IT SOUNDS SO SERI OUS...
WHO'S THAT GUY?!
THAT HOTTIE WAS HERE AL READY?!
HE WAS HUGGING MORINA-CHAN THIS ENTIRE TIME.
WHAAAT?
MY SHOULDERS ARE STIFF
NNNGH?!

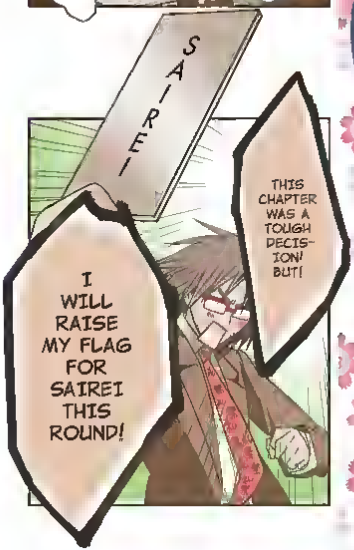
THE ITALIAN SHOWDOWN, "PRIMO PIATTO" CHAPTER! AND THE WINNER IS...!

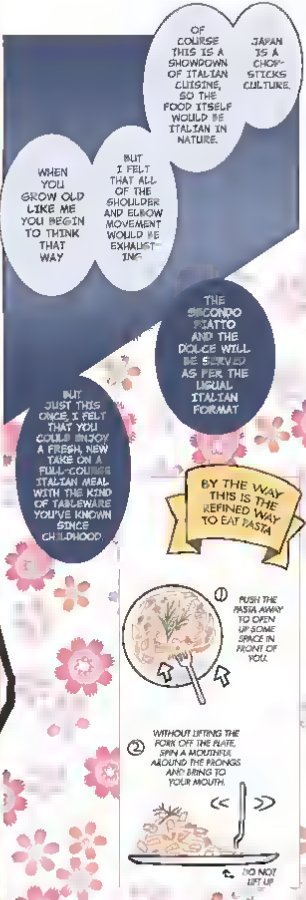
29, HOW TO EAT PASTA


SAIREI
THE JUDGMENTS ARE IN ON THE "PRIMO PIATTO" CHAPTER OF THE ITALIAN SHOWDOWN.
FESTA
THE RISOTTO WAS GREAT! EATING A HOTTIE'S HAND-MADE COOKING IS THE BEST THERE IS!
POP
I'VE ALSO ENJOYED HIS BACK STORY JAMMINGELY
I MUST ASK GRANDMOTHER FOR MORE DETAILS WHEN WE RETURN.
SLY
SARA!
IT'S OLD NEWS!
I BEG OF YOU, DON'T ASK YOUR NANA!
HNNNNNGH!
WMMMGH
NIZA-SAMA.
WHY IS IT THAT YOU USED JAPANESE TABLE WARE FOR THIS DISH ONLY?
I FELT THAT PRO-LONGED USE OF THE FORK AND KNIFE...
...WOULD STIFFEN YOUR SHOULD-ERS.

-YOU EVEN THOUGHT OF STUFF LIKE THAT?
I'M STILL HIP, RIGHT?
IT'S SOME INNO-VATIVE THINKING RIGHT?
77!
IT'S TRUE THAT I JUST WENT TO TOWN ON MY DISH!

SUCH A BROAD-MINDED FIGURE...
TO THINK OF THE CONSIDER-ATION FOR OTHERS YOU'VE PUT IN THIS DISH...


SAIREI
I WILL RAISE MY FLAG FOR SAIREI THIS ROUND!
THIS CHAPTER WAS A TOUGH DECIS-ION! BUT!

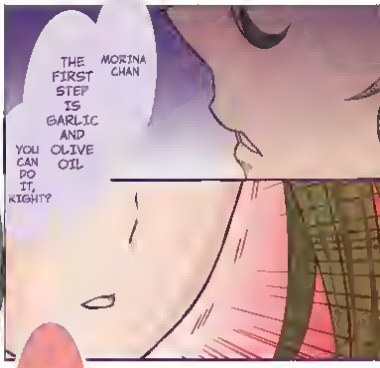

OF COURSE THIS IS A SHOWDOWN OF ITALIAN CUISINE, SO THE FOOD ITSELF WOULD BE ITALIAN IN NATURE.
JAPAN IS A CHOP-STICKS CULTURE.
WHEN YOU GROW OLD LIKE ME YOU BEGIN TO THINK THAT WAY
BUT I FELT THAT ALL OF THE SHOULDER AND ELBOW MOVEMENT WOULD BE EXHAUST-ING.
THE SECONDO PIATTO AND THE DOLCE WILL BE SERVED AS PER THE USUAL ITALIAN FORMAT
BUT JUST THIS ONCE, I FELT THAT YOU COULD ENJOY A FRESH, NEW TAKE ON A FULL-COURSE ITALIAN MEAL WITH THE KIND OF TABLEWARE YOU'VE KNOWN SINCE CHILDHOOD.
BY THE WAY THIS IS THE REFINED WAY TO EAT PASTA
① PUSH THE PASTA AWAY TO OPEN UP SOME SPACE IN FRONT OF YOU.
② WITHOUT LIFTING THE FORK OFF THE PLATE, SPIN A MOUTHFUL AROUND THE PRONGS AND BRING TO YOUR MOUTH.
DO NOT LIFT UP
IF YOU BITE INTO MORE THAN A MOUTHFUL, THEN SHORT STRANDS AT THE END WILL REMAIN, WHICH ARE AWKWARD TO FINISH OFF

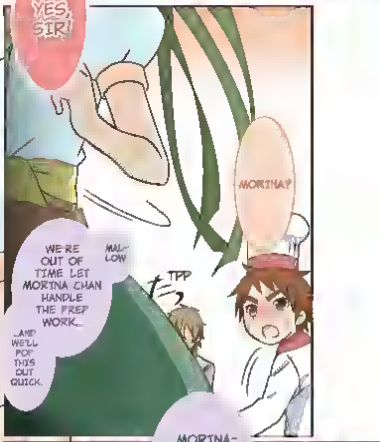
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL! BUT THAT'S NOT MORINA YOU'RE HOLDING!
KIRI-HIDE!
TRATTORIA FESTA NOW STANDS AT ONE WIN, TWO LOSSES..
..LOST..
KIRIHIDE..
NOT ONE CHANCE..
MORINA.. DOESN'T EVEN STAND A CHANCE AT WINNING..
..THEN IT'S ALL OVER..
..IF I DON'T WIN..
IF..
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

THUD
ドタン!
OH MY! HE'S BURNING UP!
MALLOW-SAN!
MALLOW!
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, HE'S BEEN SNEEZING FOR A WHILE...
A COLD?
MALLOW, DID YOU CATCH A CHILL SOME-HOW?
ぎく ERK
GLARE
GUESS THIS WON'T KEEP YOU DOWN, AFTER ALL.
EMPLOYED TOTAL CONCENTRATION
HE CAN'T MAKE HIS SECONDO PIATTO IN THIS CONDI-TION...
MALLOW, TELL US THE RECIPE, AND WE'LL ALL HELP...
MALLOW-SAN!
DON'T WORRY! I CAN DO IT!
WHIR
WHIR
WHIR
CLANGA
CLANGA
KERKASH

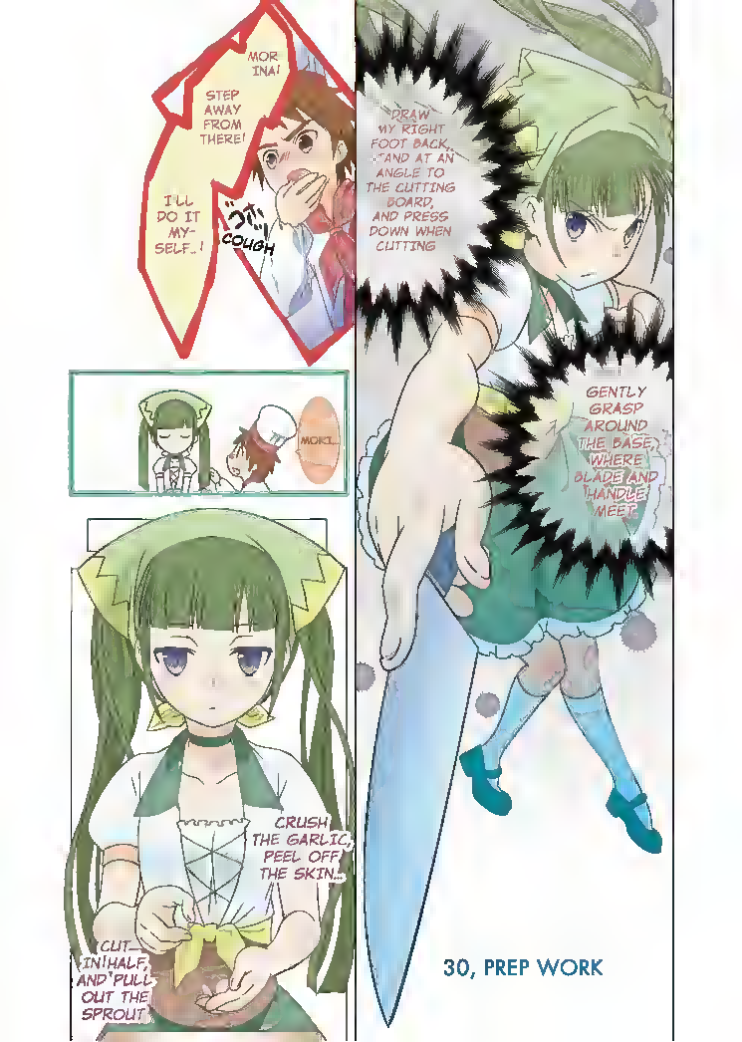
JUST TELL ME THE RECIPE, ALREADY
KIRI-HIDE AND I WILL DO IT
ALTHOUGH HE'S GONE INTO KOALA MODE OVER THERE...
NO!
I DON'T WANT TO RELY ON YOU, OR ON KIRI-HIDE!
I'LL, I'LL MAKE THIS! AND I'LL WIN THIS!
SNATCH
SO, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
I'M NOT GONNA MAKE THIS.
BACK OFF!
STOP IT, EI!
HEY!
AH!

MALLOW...
...TAKE A GOOD LOOK
TODAY, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HER...
...AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE.


MORINA CHAN
THE FIRST STEP IS GARLIC AND OLIVE OIL
YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT?

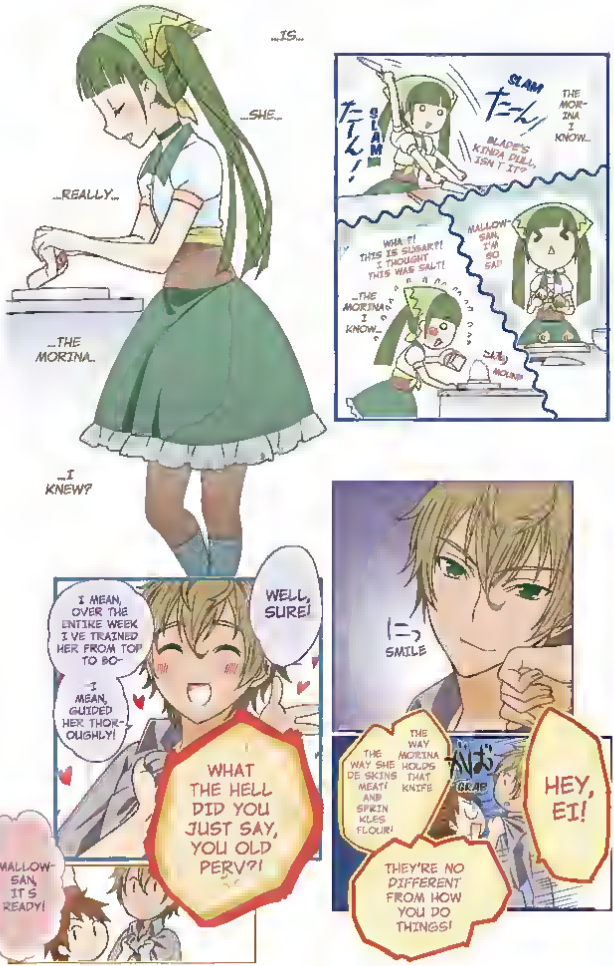

YES, SIR!
MORINA?
MAL-LOW
WE'RE OUT OF TIME LET MORINA CHAN HANDLE THE PREP WORK...
...AND WE'LL POP THIS OUT QUICK.
TPP

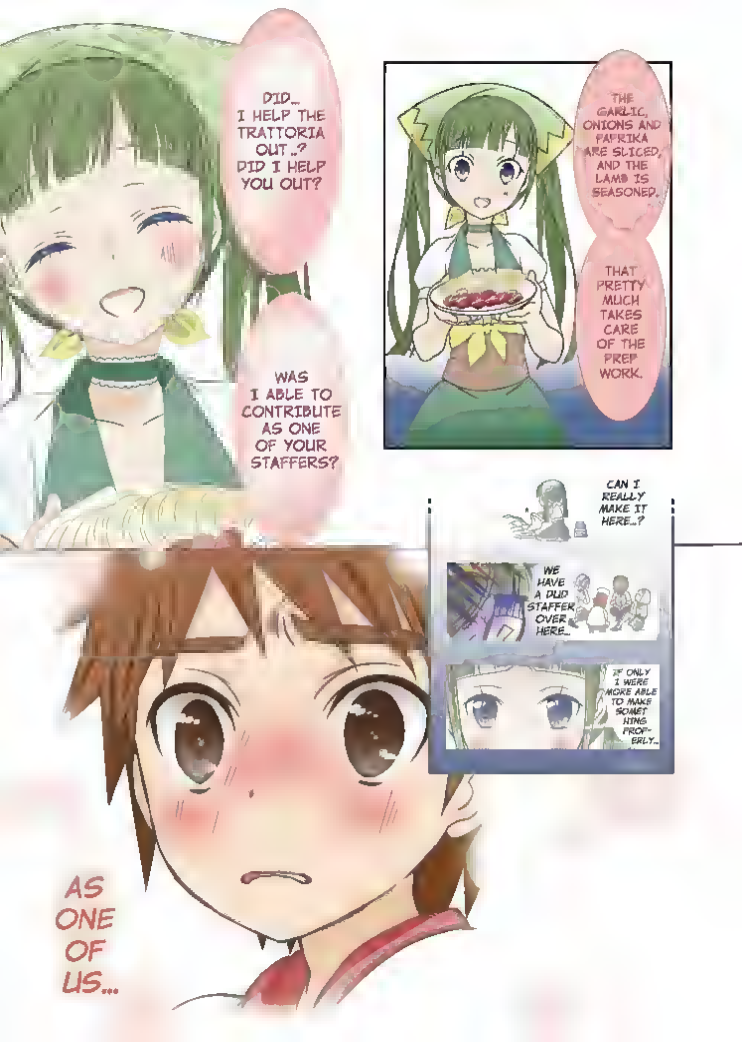
MORINA-CHAN WILL HELP US OUT JUST FINE
HER HELP US OUT? AR, YOU CRAZY?!


MORINA!
STEP AWAY FROM THERE!
I'LL DO IT MYSELF..!
"ゴホ" COUGH
MOKI...
DRAW MY RIGHT FOOT BACK... AND AT AN ANGLE TO THE CUTTING BOARD, AND PRESS DOWN WHEN CUTTING
GENTLY GRASP AROUND THE BASE, WHERE BLADE AND HANDLE MEET
CRUSH THE GARLIC, PEEL OFF THE SKIN...
CUT IN HALF, AND PULL OUT THE SPROUT
30, PREP WORK

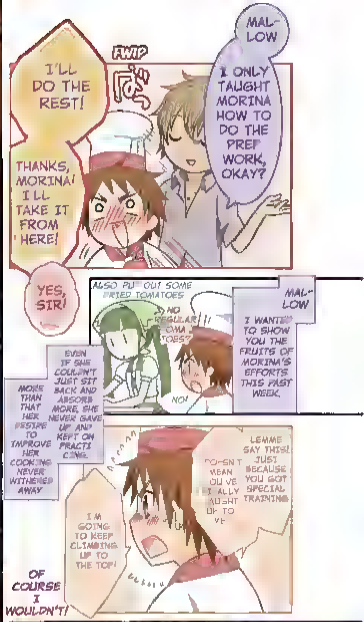
SNIK SNIK SNIK SNIK
SHE DOESN'T MAKE A SOUND... WHEN SHE CUTS?
MORINA CHAN, TAKE CARE OF THE ONIONS AND PAPRIKA, TOO
YES, SIR!
SLICE
SNIK SNIK SNIK SNIK
THE LAMB IS NEXT SPRINKLE ON SOME SALT, PEPPER, AND FLOUR
YES, SIR!
SHE'S FAST...!
SHIK

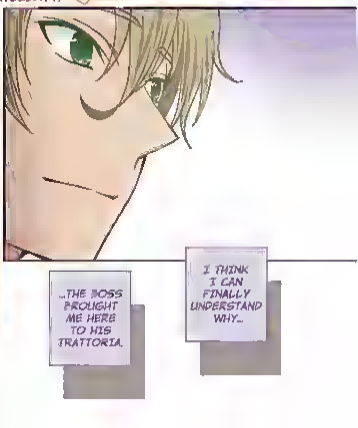
WE RE USING FINE-GRAIN BREAD FLOUR FOR THIS RECIPE
TA-DAH
AND TO MAKE A FINE COATING, A TEA STRAINER IS BEST
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
HEY, MORINA!
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DUST SOMETHING EVENLY?
YOU CAN'T JUST DROP A SLAB OF MEAT INTO A PILE OF FLOUR!
SO THE FLOUR SEALS IN THE FLAVORS, AND DISSOLVES THE SAUCES THAT THE MEAT IS COOKED IN
TAP
THE REASON WHY WE SPRINKLE FLOUR.. IS THAT PROTEINS HARDEN UNDER HIGH HEAT
THIS RESULTS IN A MEAT THAT'S TENDER AND FLAVORFUL! RIGHT?
WHO...
...ARE YOU?


...IS...
...SHE...
...REALLY...
...THE MORINA...
...I KNEW?
SLAM
THE MORINA I KNOW...
BLADE'S KINDA DULL, ISN'T IT?
WHA-?! THIS IS SUGAR?! I THOUGHT THIS WAS SALT!
MALLOW-SAN, I'M SO SAD
...THE MORINA I KNOW...
MOUND
WELL, SURE!
I MEAN, OVER THE ENTIRE WEEK I'VE TRAINED HER FROM TOP TO BO-
-I MEAN, GUIDED HER THOR-OUGHLY!
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU JUST SAY, YOU OLD PERV?!
MALLOW-SAN, IT'S READY!
SMILE
THE WAY SHE DE SKINS MEAT AND SPRIN KLES FLOUR!
THE WAY MORINA HOLDS THAT KNIFE
GRAB
HEY, EI!
THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM HOW YOU DO THINGS!

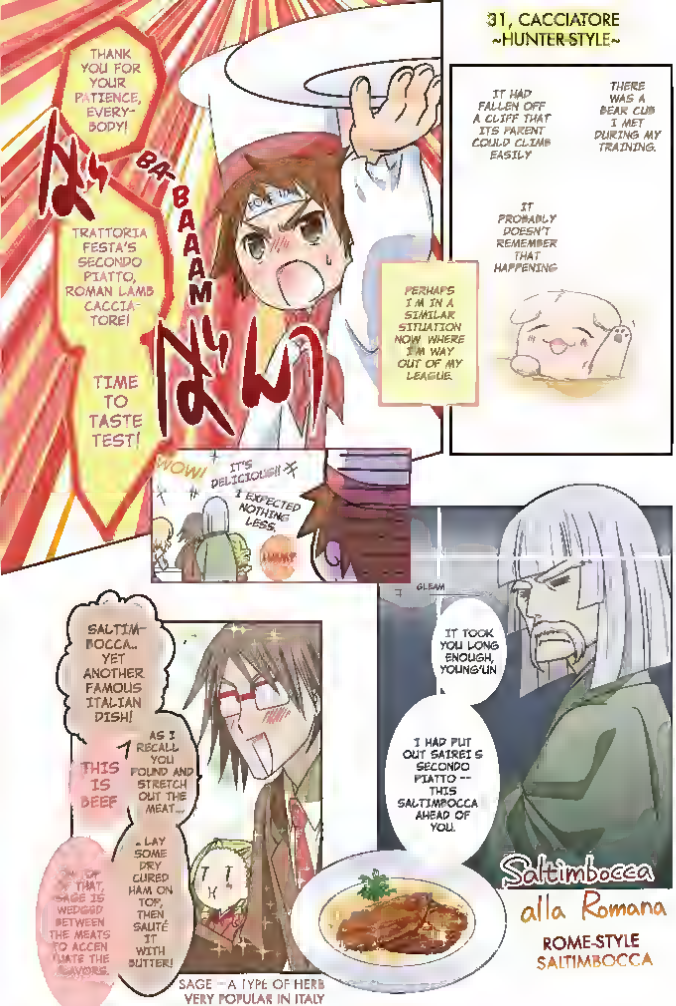

DID... I HELP THE TRATTORIA OUT...? DID I HELP YOU OUT?
WAS I ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE AS ONE OF YOUR STAFFERS?
THE GARLIC, ONIONS AND PAPRIKA ARE SLICED, AND THE LAMB IS SEASONED.
THAT PRETTY MUCH TAKES CARE OF THE PREP WORK.
CAN I REALLY MAKE IT HERE...?
WE HAVE A DUD STAFFER OVER HERE...
IF ONLY I WERE MORE ABLE TO MAKE SOMETHING PROPERLY...
AS ONE OF US...

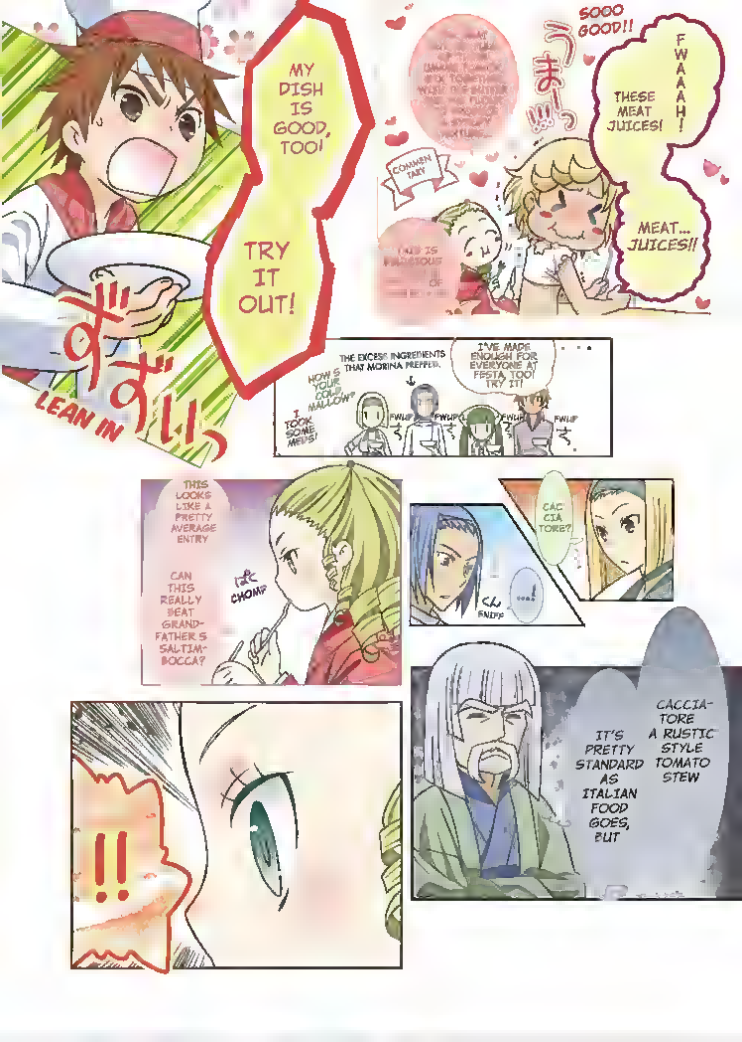
IT'S DONE!
TRAT-TORIA FESTA'S SECONDO PIATTO...
...ROMAN LAMB CACCIA-TORE!
WE WIN WITH THIS!


MAL-LOW
I ONLY TAUGHT MORINA HOW TO DO THE PREP WORK, OKAY?
FWIP
I'LL DO THE REST!
THANKS, MORINA! I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE!
YES, SIR!
ALSO PUT OUT SOME FRIED TOMATOES
NO REGULAR OMA TOES
NO!
MAL-LOW
I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THE FRUITS OF MORINA'S EFFORTS THIS PAST WEEK.
EVEN IF SHE COULDN'T JUST SIT BACK AND ABSORB MORE, SHE NEVER GAVE UP AND KEPT ON PRACTICING.
MORE THAN THAT HER PRESSURE TO IMPROVE HER COOKING NEVER WITHERED AWAY
LEMME SAY THIS! JUST BECAUSE YOU GOT SPECIAL TRAINING
DOESN'T MEAN YOU'VE ACTUALLY MADE IT TO THE TOP!
I'M GOING TO KEEP CLIMBING UP TO THE TOP!
OF COURSE I WOULDN'T!


...THE BOSS BROUGHT ME HERE TO HIS TRATTORIA.
I THINK I CAN FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY...

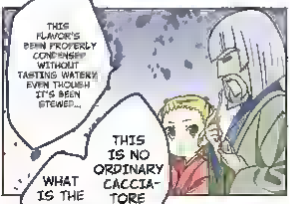
31, CACCIATORE ~HUNTER-STYLE~

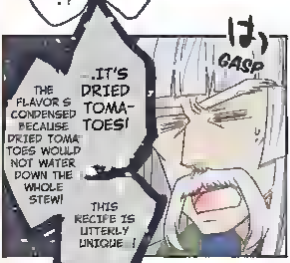

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE, EVERY-BODY!
BA
BAAAM
TRATTORIA FESTA'S SECONDO PIATTO, ROMAN LAMB CACCIA-TORE!
TIME TO TASTE TEST!
IT HAD FALLEN OFF A CLIFF THAT ITS PARENT COULD CLIMB EASILY
THERE WAS A BEAR CUB I MET DURING MY TRAINING.
IT PROBABLY DOESN'T REMEMBER THAT HAPPENING
PERHAPS I AM IN A SIMILAR SITUATION NOW WHERE I AM WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE.
WOW! IT'S DELICIOUS!!
I EXPECTED NOTHING LESS.
GLEAM
IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, YOUNG'UN
I HAD PUT OUT SAIBEI'S SECONDO PIATTO -- THIS SALTIMBOCCA AHEAD OF YOU.
SALTIM-BOCCA... YET ANOTHER FAMOUS ITALIAN DISH!
THIS IS BEEF
AS I RECALL, YOU POUND AND STRETCH OUT THE MEAT...
...LAY SOME DRY CURED HAM ON TOP, THEN SAUTÉ IT WITH BUTTER!
ON TOP OF THAT, SAGE IS WEDGED BETWEEN THE MEATS TO ACCEN-TUATE THE FLAVORS.
SAGE - A TYPE OF HERB VERY POPULAR IN ITALY
Saltimbocca alla Romana
ROME-STYLE SALTIMBOCCA

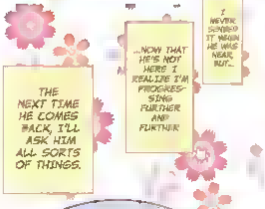

LEAN IN
MY DISH IS GOOD, TOO!
TRY IT OUT!
SOOO GOOD!!
うまっ!!!
FWAAAH!
THESE MEAT JUICES!
MEAT... JUICES!!
COMMENTARY
THE EXCESS INGREDIENTS THAT MORINA PREPARED.
I'VE MADE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE AT FESTA TOO! TRY IT!
HOW'S YOUR COOL, HALLOW?
I TOOK SOME MEDS!
FWUP
THIS LOOKS LIKE A PRETTY AVERAGE ENTRY
CAN THIS REALLY BEAT GRANDFATHER'S SALTIMBOCCA?
CHOMP
CACCIATORE?
...!
!!
IT'S PRETTY STANDARD AS ITALIAN FOOD GOES, BUT
CACCIATORE A RUSTIC STYLE TOMATO STEW

...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D ACTUALLY WHIP OUT THE BOSS'S OWN RECIPE...
...TO WIN THIS SHOWDOWN!
EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT MY HELP OR KIRINDER'S
STAB STAB
ぐさぐさ
I KNEW IT THE MOMENT I SAW IT
BUT THIS IS AMAZING YOUR FATHER'S TAKE ON IT WAS VERY UNIQUE, AFTER ALL.
...I WONDER WHERE YOU FOUND THE RECIPE? DID YOU SEARCH ALL THROUGH YOUR HOUSE?
HEY, MAL-LOW...
...THIS IS YOUR FATHER'S RECIPE, ISN'T IT?
IT TASTES LIKE IT WAS STEWED ALL DAY LONG...!
THE LAMB IS TENDER...
THE PAPRIKA'S SWEET! THE ONIONS ARE SWEET!
WOW!
WHAT IS THIS?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE INGREDIENTS I PREPPED TRANSFORMED INTO SUCH A GREAT DISH!
MAL-LOW-SAN REALLY CAN PULL OFF AMAZING FEATS...!
HE'S RIGHT! IT TASTES GREAT!
CHOMP
I'M SO GLAD...
IF I COULD MAKE IT BY MYSELF I WOULD HAVE WANTED TO.
CLENCH!
I DON'T LIKE THAT I HAD TO USE MY OLD MAN'S RECIPE
BUT THAT RECIPE IS ALSO A PART OF TRATTORIA FESTA'S POWER!
I COULDN'T TAKE ON THE SAIREI GRAND MASTER ON MY OWN.
BUT IF I ASKED FOR A LITTLE HELP FROM MY OLD MAN..
A MAN WHO KNOWS A WORLD I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...

BAM DUM!
FESTA
WOO!
HELL YEAH!
THE SCORE'S NOW EVEN!


THIS FLAVOR'S BEEN PROPERLY CONDENSED WITHOUT TASTING WATERY, EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEEN STEWED...
THIS IS NO ORDINARY CACCIA-TORE
WHAT IS THE SECRET .?


HA, GASP
..IT'S DRIED TOMA-TOES!
THE FLAVOR'S CONDENSED BECAUSE DRIED TOMA-TOES WOULD NOT WATER DOWN THE WHOLE STEW!
THIS RECIPE IS LITTERLY UNIQUE..!


I NEVER SUNDAY IT WHEN HE WAS NEAR, BUT...
...NOW THAT HE'S NOT HERE I REALIZE I'M PROGRES-SING FURTHER AND FURTHER
THE NEXT TIME HE COMES BACK, I'LL ASK HIM ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

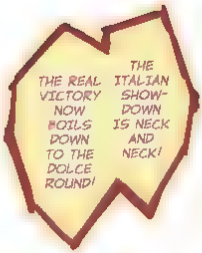
AFTER ALL, WE WON THE DAY WITH A DISH I MADE, FROM A RECIPE HE WROTE.

WHEN EVERYONE POOLS THEIR TALENTS TOGETHER, THAT'S WHEN TRATTORIA FESTA REALLY STANDS THROUGH.
I'M NOT ALONE HERE.

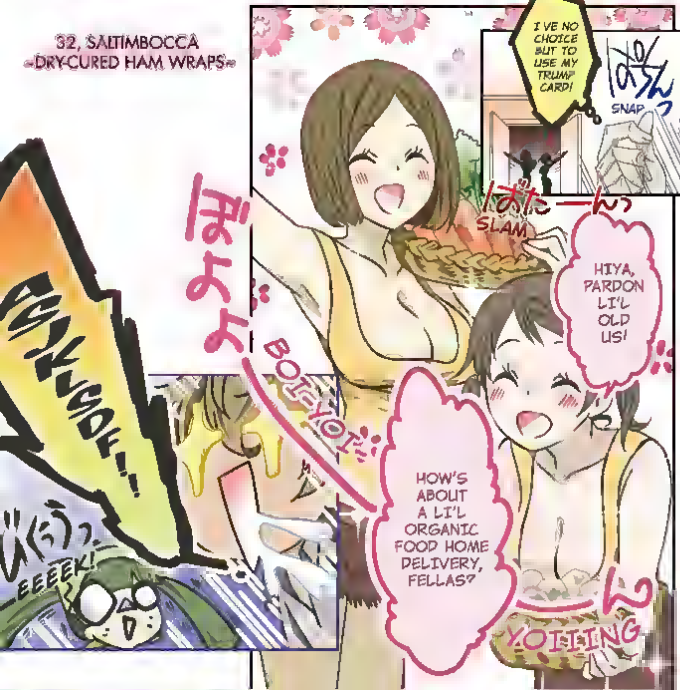
REALLY SOME-THING INDEED!
"ALLOW'S FATHER IS REALLY SOME-THING!

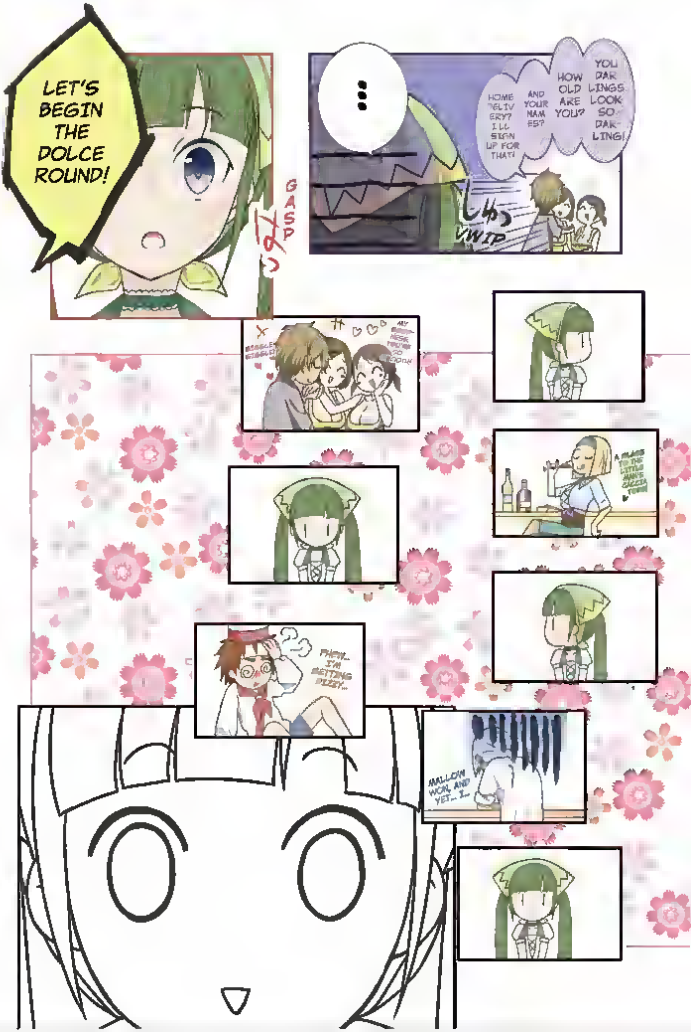
AH HAH
AND HE "FORGET" FORGET WHATEVER HE SAYS AND GETS PUSHED AROUND!
HE DOES PUSH HIS HIGH SENCE OF AESTHETICS ONTO OTHERS.
YEAH, BUT HE JUST LEAVE US WITHOUT NOTICE

I THOUGHT THIS TRATTORIA WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ITALIAN CAFETERIA FOR THE MASSES...
BUT THOSE CHEFS BLENDED JAPANESE ELEMENTS INTO THEIR DISHES TO SUIT JAPANESE TASTES
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY TOOK IT THIS FAR...!



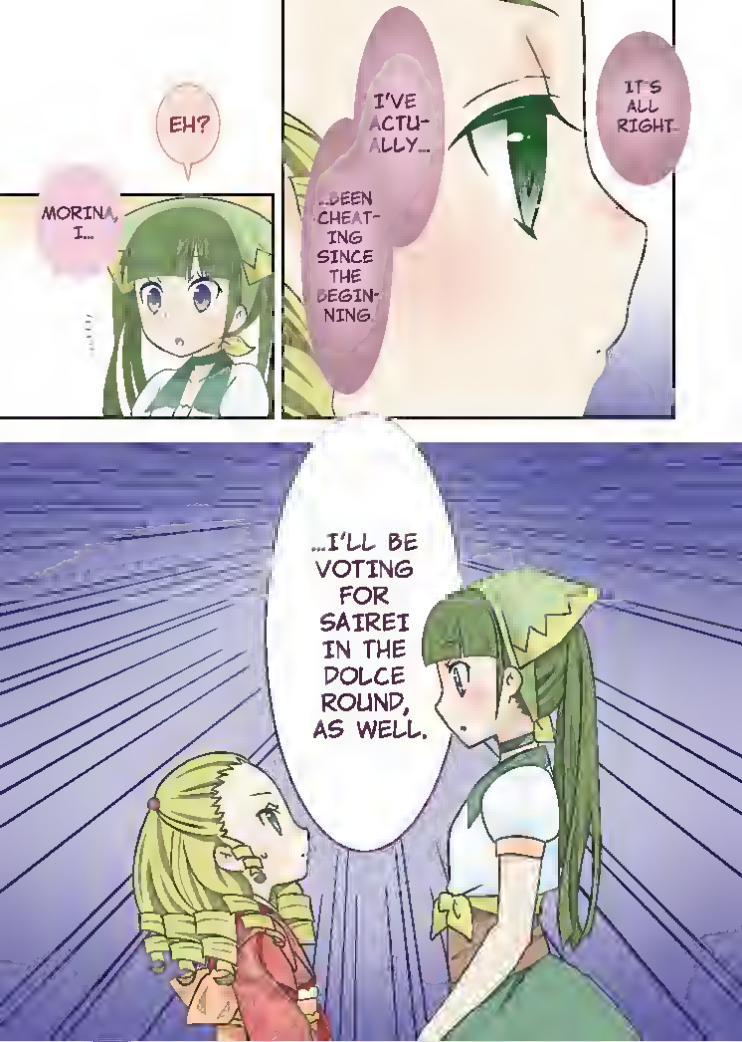
32. SALTIMBOCCA ~DRY-CURED HAM WRAPS~




LET'S BEGIN THE DOLCE ROUND!
GASP
...
YOU DARLINGS LOOK SO DARLING!
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
AND YOUR NAMES?
HOME TELEVERY? I'LL SIGN UP FOR THAT!
UWIP
PHEW... I'M GETTING DIZZY...
MILLION WON, AND YET...!

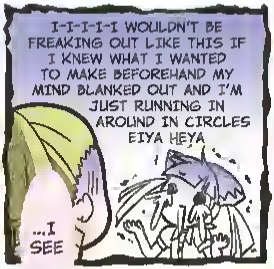
PKOP
TREMBLE
THEY DIDN'T TEACH ME ANYTHING ABOUT DOLCE... I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE SOMETHING WORTHY FOR THIS SHOW-DOWN...
THERE'S AT LEAST THE TWO TYPES OF GELATO, SOME TIRAMISU, AND CHEESECAKE THAT EI-SAN MADE FOR RESERVES IN THE FRIDGE... BUT I CAN'T PRESENT SOMETHING PRE-MADE, CAN I...?
I HAVE TO MAKE THE DOLCE...?
ALONE?
I WANNA EAT AS MUCH SWEET STUFF AS I CAN!
I'M EXCITED TO SEE WHAT THEY'LL PUT OUT FOR THE DOLCE ROUND!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WIN...
SYUUU
EEK!
EH? MEANING... MORIKIN'S GONNA MAKE THE DOLCE FOR THE LAST ROUND? SHE CAN MAKE DOLCE? AMAZING!
IT SEEMS THAT EACH CHEF AT TRATTORIA FESTA IS IN CHARGE OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF DISHES.

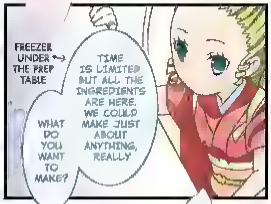
WHERE'S THE LADIES' ROOM?
...
THE LADIES' ROOM? IT'S OVER--
SARA-CHAN?
YOU'RE MAKING THE DOLCE ALONE, RIGHT?
WHAT'S WITH THAT MOUN-TAIN OF MINT?
PLUCK
PLUCK PLUCK
こもり MOUND
PLUCK
MINT, LOTS OF MINT...
IN ANY CASE, I NEED LOTS OF DECO-RATIVE MINT...
WILL THIS BE ENOUGH FOR THE JOB...?
MOR-INA
I'LL HELP HAVE YOU DECIDED ON WHAT TO MAKE?
EH?..
N NO I'VE NOT BUT...
WOULDN'T HELPING ME BE CHEAT-ING?

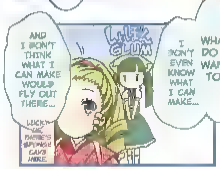

EH?
MORINA, I...
I'VE ACTU-ALLY...
...BEEN CHEAT-ING SINCE THE BEGIN-NING.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
...I'LL BE VOTING FOR SAIREI IN THE DOLCE ROUND, AS WELL.

THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO WIN THE OTHER TWO VOTES...
THERE'S NO TIME LEFT!
QWIP
...THROUGH SHEER SKILL!
MORINA, WE'LL MAKE THIS ON THE DOUBLE!

33, ZUPPA INGLESE
~SOUP CAKE~

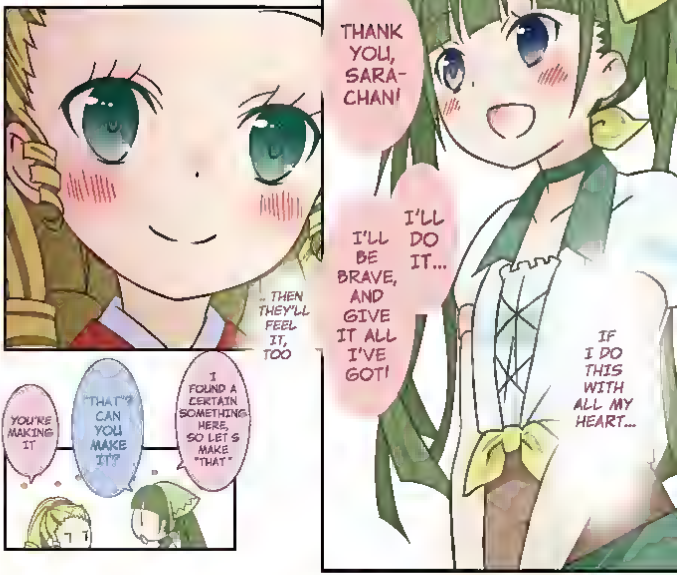

I-I-I-I-I WOULDN'T BE FREAKING OUT LIKE THIS IF I KNEW WHAT I WANTED TO MAKE BEFOREHAND MY MIND BLANKED OUT AND I'M JUST RUNNING IN AROUND IN CIRCLES
EIYA HEYA
...I SEE

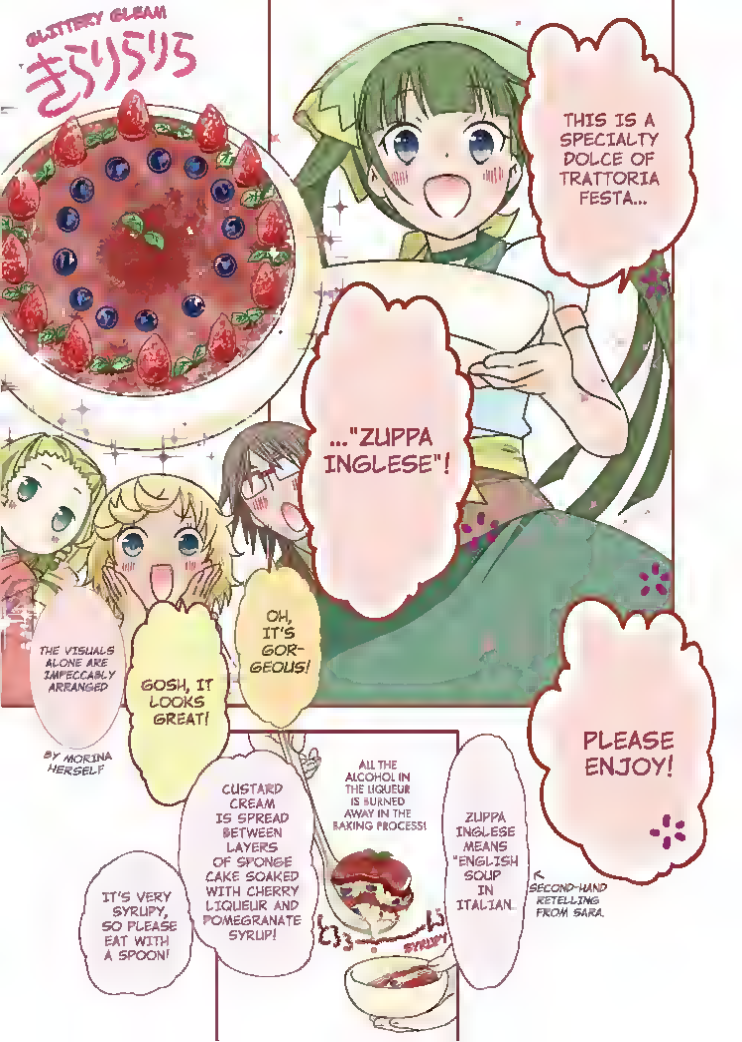

FREEZER UNDER THE PREP TABLE
TIME IS LIMITED BUT ALL THE INGREDIENTS ARE HERE. WE COULD MAKE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING, REALLY
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO MAKE?

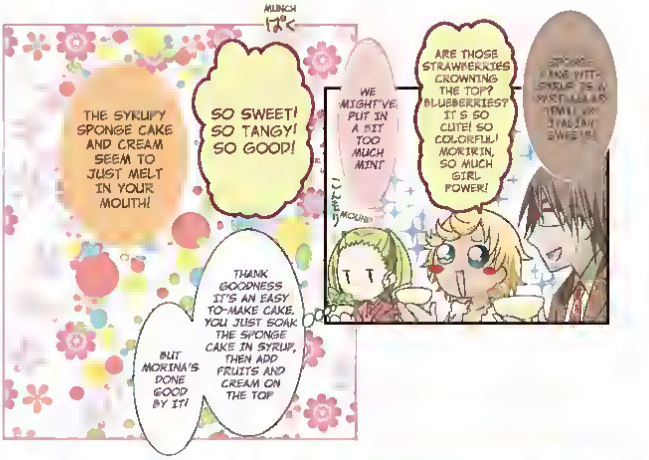

AND I DON'T THINK WHAT I CAN MAKE WOULD FLY OUT THERE...
LUCKILY, MR. TAMIYA'S RESTAURANT SAVED MAKE.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I CAN MAKE...
WHAT DO I WANT TO..

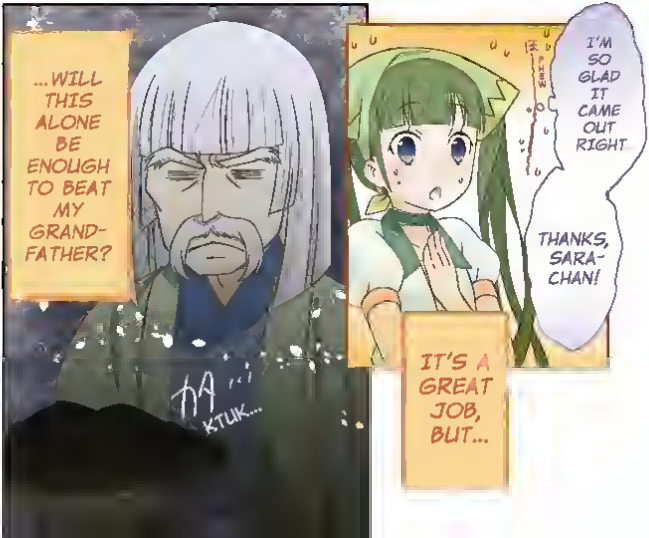
DESSERT...
ぱぁぁぁ

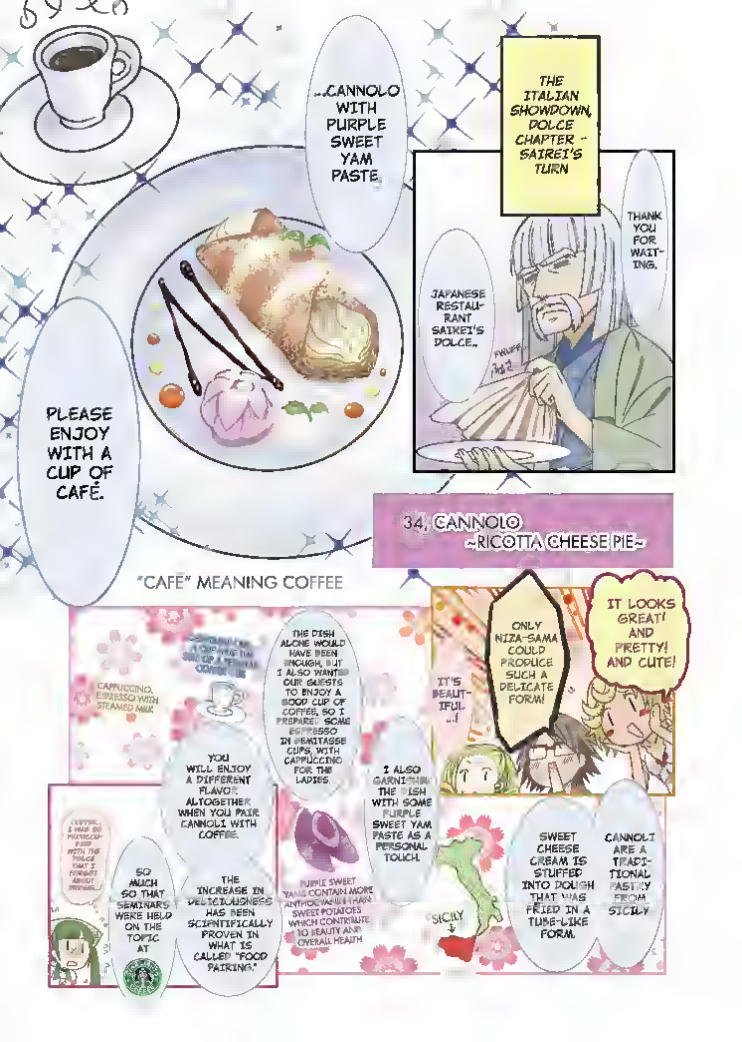
SO TAKE THAT LOVE AND BAKE IT INTO YOUR CREATION ...
AND DO THAT WITH ALL THE LOVE YOU FEEL IN YOUR HEART RIGHT NOW
...SO THAT YOUR CUSTOMERS WILL FEEL YOUR PASSION WITH EACH BITE.
GRIP
IF I DO IT WITH ALL MY HEART--
EVEN IF I'M STILL GREEN...


THANK YOU, SARA-CHAN!
I'LL DO IT...
I'LL BE BRAVE, AND GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT!
IF I DO THIS WITH ALL MY HEART...
.. THEN THEY'LL FEEL IT, TOO
I FOUND A CERTAIN SOMETHING HERE, SO LET'S MAKE "THAT"
"THAT"? CAN YOU MAKE IT?
YOU'RE MAKING IT
AH! KYUK!
SARA-SAN.
YOU HURT YOUR A WHILE IN THE LADIES ROOM...
YUP YUP! I'M AT THE TRATTORIA WHERE MORINA WORKS!!
I HAD TO... MUTTERING! OH YEAH, THEY SENT MOTTOS!! YEAH, COME ON DOWN WITH ME NEXT TIME!
..SO HAPPEN AG..
I APOLO-GIZE FOR THE WAIT!
HEY! WHIP UP THE CREAM!
IY-YES MA'AM!
ERR, HOW?!
MORINA! BRING THE BEATER DOWN! DOWN!
CREAM'S FLYING EVERY-WHERE!
NOOOOOH THE WHIPPED CREAM'S ALL FLUNG OFF THE MIXING BOWL!

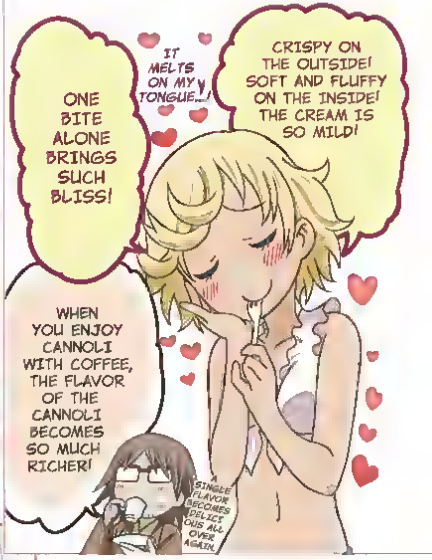

GLITTERY GLEAM
きらりらり
THIS IS A SPECIALTY DOLCE OF TRATTORIA FESTA...
..."ZUPPA INGLESE"!
OH, IT'S GOR-GEOUS!
GOSH, IT LOOKS GREAT!
THE VISUALS ALONE ARE IMPECCABLY ARRANGED
BY MORINA HERSELF
PLEASE ENJOY!
ZUPPA INGLESE MEANS "ENGLISH SOUP IN ITALIAN.
K SECOND-HAND RETELLING FROM SARA.
ALL THE ALCOHOL IN THE LIQUEUR IS BURNED AWAY IN THE BAKING PROCESS!
CUSTARD CREAM IS SPREAD BETWEEN LAYERS OF SPONGE CAKE SOAKED WITH CHERRY LIQUEUR AND POMEGRANATE SYRUP!
IT'S VERY SYRUPY, SO PLEASE EAT WITH A SPOON!
SYRUP!


MUNCH
THE SYRUPY SPONGE CAKE AND CREAM SEEM TO JUST MELT IN YOUR MOUTH!
SO SWEET! SO TANGY! SO GOOD!
BUT MORINA'S DONE GOOD BY IT!
THANK GOODNESS IT'S AN EASY TO-MAKE CAKE. YOU JUST SOAK THE SPONGE CAKE IN SYRUP, THEN ADD FRUITS AND CREAM ON THE TOP
WE MIGHT'VE PUT IN A BIT TOO MUCH MINT
ARE THOSE STRAWBERRIES CROWNING THE TOP? BLUEBERRIES? IT'S SO CUTE! SO COLORFUL! MORIRIN, SO MUCH GIRL POWER!
SPONGE CAKE WITH WHIPPED CREAM IS A WESTERNER'S SMALL TASTE OF ITALIAN SWEETS!
SMOUND
PANT PANT


...WILL THIS ALONE BE ENOUGH TO BEAT MY GRAND-FATHER?
KTUK...
I'M SO GLAD IT CAME OUT RIGHT
PHEW
THANKS, SARA-CHAN!
IT'S A GREAT JOB, BUT...


...CANNOLO WITH PURPLE SWEET YAM PASTE.
THE ITALIAN SHOWDOWN, DOLCE CHAPTER ~ SAIREI'S TURN
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
JAPANESE RESTAURANT SAIREI'S DOLCE...
PHILIPPE
PLEASE ENJOY WITH A CUP OF CAFÉ.
34. CANNOLO ~RICOTTA CHEESE PIE~
"CAFÉ" MEANING COFFEE
CAPPUCCINO, ESPRESSO WITH STEAMED MILK
THE DISH ALONE WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH, BUT I ALSO WANTED OUR GUESTS TO ENJOY A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE, SO I PREPARE SOME ESPRESSO IN DEMITASSE CUPS, WITH CAPPUCCINO FOR THE LADIES
ONLY NIZA-SAMA COULD PRODUCE SUCH A DELICATE FORM!
IT LOOKS GREAT! AND PRETTY! AND CUTE!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL...!
YOU WILL ENJOY A DIFFERENT FLAVOR ALTOGETHER WHEN YOU PAIR CANNOLI WITH COFFEE.
I ALSO GARNISHED THE DISH WITH SOME PURPLE SWEET YAM PASTE AS A PERSONAL TOUCH.
PURPLE SWEET YAMS CONTAIN MORE ANTHOCYANIN THAN SWEET POTATOES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO BEAUTY AND OVERALL HEALTH
SO MUCH SO THAT SEMINAR'S WERE HELD ON THE TOPIC AT
THE INCREASE IN DELICIOUSNESS HAS BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN IN WHAT IS CALLED "FOOD PAIRING."
SICILY
SWEET CHEESE CREAM IS STUFFED INTO DOUGH THAT WAS FRIED IN A TUBE-LIKE FORM.
CANNOLI ARE A TRADITIONAL PASTRY FROM SICILY

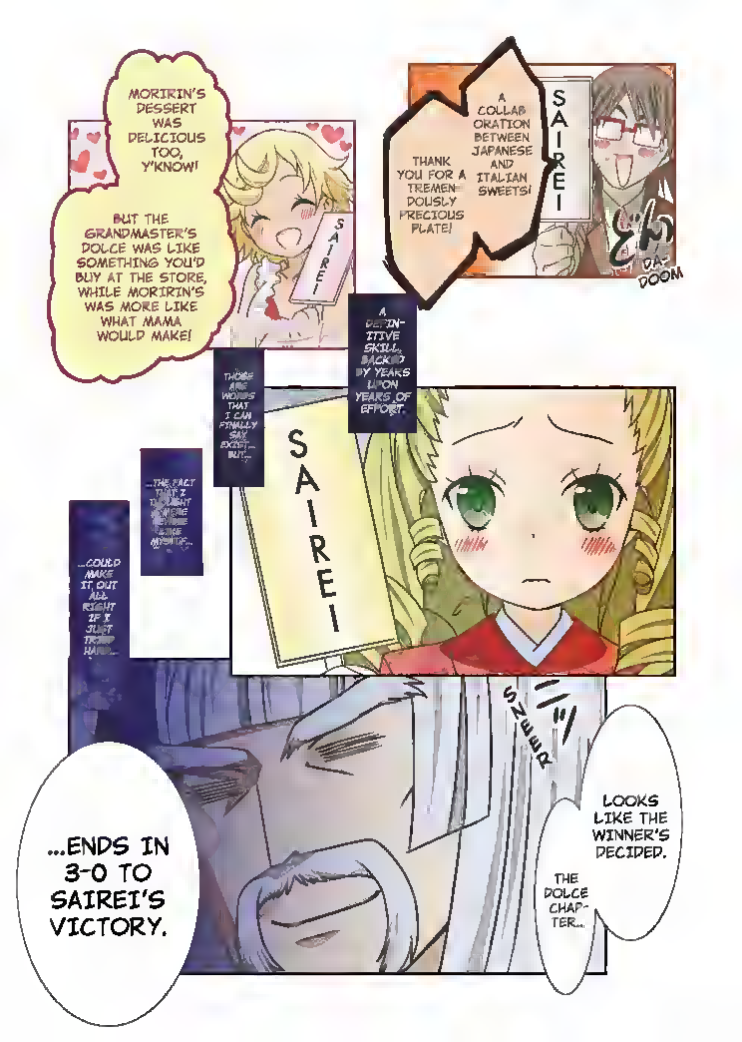
GRAND-FATHER DID NOT HOLD BACK, ALL THE WAY TO THE END...!
THIS DOLCE WAS NOTHING SHORT OF SPLEN-DID
MORINA HAS NO WAY OF WIN-NING, NOW...


IT MELTS ON MY TONGUE...!
CRISPY ON THE OUTSIDE! SOFT AND FLUFFY ON THE INSIDE! THE CREAM IS SO MILD!
ONE BITE ALONE BRINGS SUCH BLISS!
WHEN YOU ENJOY CANNOLI WITH COFFEE, THE FLAVOR OF THE CANNOLI BECOMES SO MUCH RICHER!
A SINGLE FLAVOR BECOMES DELICIOUS ALL OVER AGAIN.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY A SAMPLE?

BITE...
CHEW...

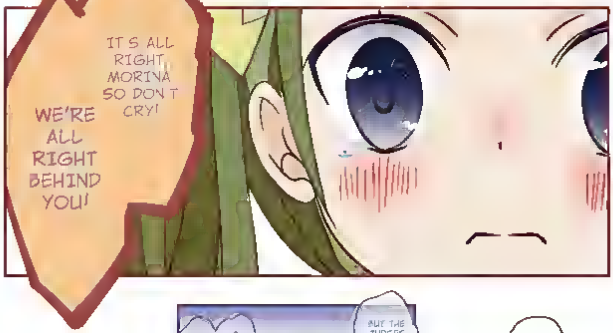
YOU CAN TELL HIS DEVOTION TO THE VISUALS...
...AND THE FLAVOR BALANCE IS EXQUISITE.
THIS IS THE GRAND-MASTER'S DOLCE...!
...IT'S SO GOOD.
"IF I DO IT WITH ALL MY HEART"... WHAT WAS I FLUFFING MYSELF UP FOR?
SARA-CHAN TOLD ME THAT TO BOOST MY MORALE... AND I GOBBLED IT UP WHOLESALE.


MORIRIN'S DESSERT WAS DELICIOUS TOO, Y'KNOW!
BUT THE GRANDMASTER'S DOLCE WAS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D BUY AT THE STORE, WHILE MORIRIN'S WAS MORE LIKE WHAT MAMA WOULD MAKE!
SAIREI
A COLLABORATION BETWEEN JAPANESE AND ITALIAN SWEETS!
THANK YOU FOR A TREMENDOUSLY PRECIOUS PLATE!
SAIREI
DA DOOM
A DEFINITIVE SKILL, BACKED BY YEARS UPON YEARS OF EFFORT.
THOSE ARE WORDS THAT I CAN FINALLY SAY EXCEPT... BUT...
SAIREI
...THE FACT THAT I DIDN'T EVEN MOVE THERE A SINGLE MUSCLE...
...COULD MAKE IT OUT ALL RIGHT IF I JUST TRUMP HARD...
SZWWZS
LOOKS LIKE THE WINNER'S DECIDED.
THE DOLCE CHAPTER...
...ENDS IN 3-0 TO SAIREI'S VICTORY.

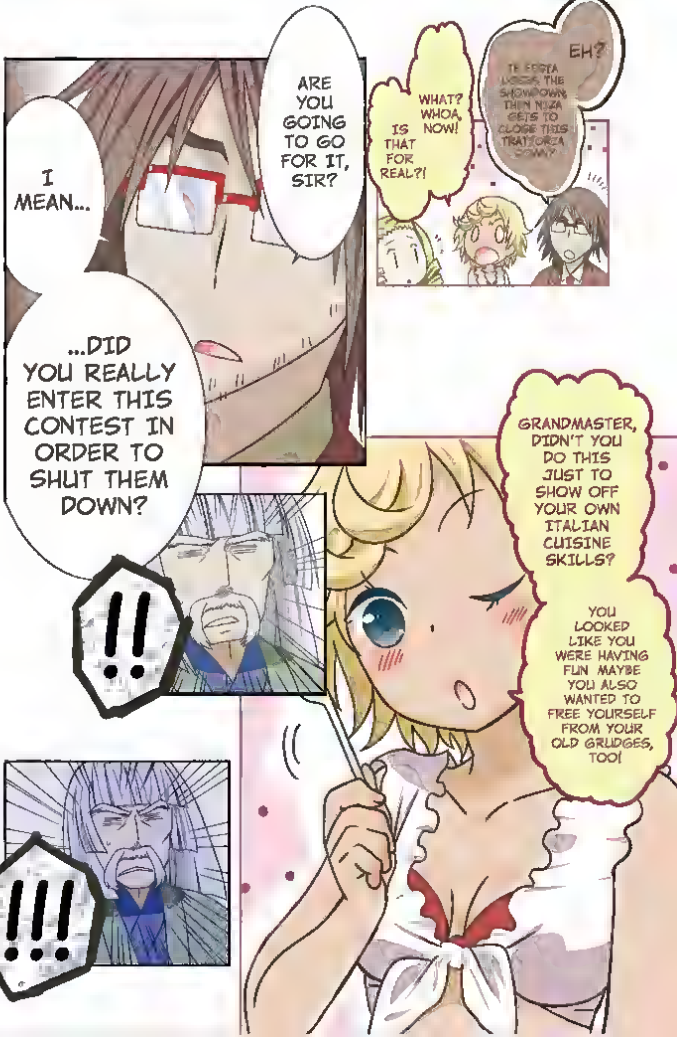
...IS AN UTTER DIS-GRACE...!
LEGAL
PANTY

FESTA
FESTA
FESTA
FESTA
FESTA
YOU GUYS!
HOW 'BOUT IT?!
FOUR ON THREE!
TRAT-TORIA FESTA WINS!

SFX?
DOUBLE CHAPTER FOUR VOTES GO TO FESTA!
DA-DUM!
SA-REE-
SA-REE-
SA-REE-
SA-REE-
SA-REE-
FESTA

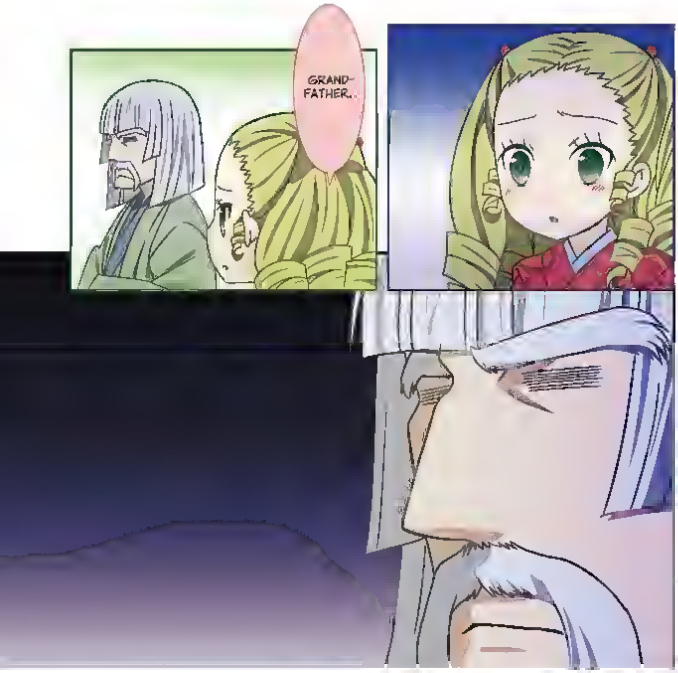

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MORINA SO DON'T CRY!
WE'RE ALL RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

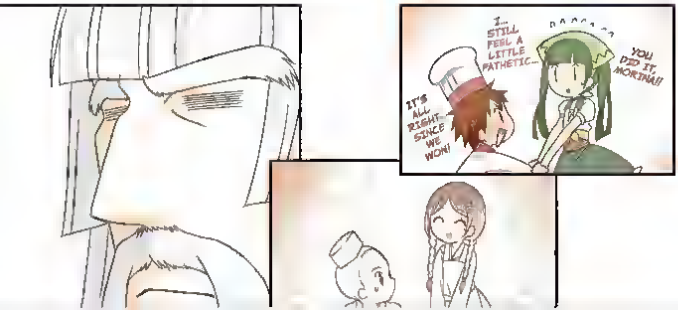
I WANTED TO PREVENT THE STORE FROM SHUTTING DOWN...
...AND YET I COULD NOT DO ANY THING TO HELP.
BUT THE JUDGES WILL BE A TO D AGAINST US.
SNIFF
IT WAS JUST SO PATHETIC, AND SO FRUSTRATING...
MORINA
.. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MALLOW-SAN

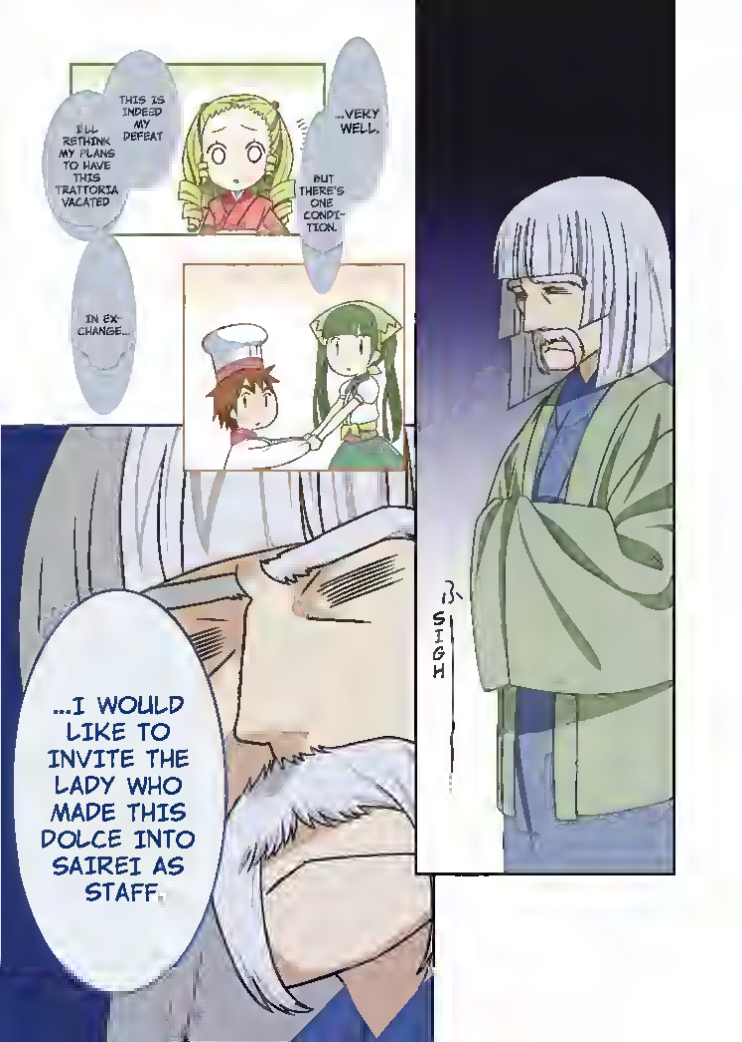

EH?
TE FORTA LASCIA THE SHOWDOWN THEN NUZA GETS TO CLOSE THIS TRATTORIA - OKAY?
WHAT? WHOA, NOW! IS THAT FOR REAL?!
ARE YOU GOING TO GO FOR IT, SIR?
I MEAN...
...DID YOU REALLY ENTER THIS CONTEST IN ORDER TO SHUT THEM DOWN?
!!
!!!
GRANDMASTER, DIDN'T YOU DO THIS JUST TO SHOW OFF YOUR OWN ITALIAN CUISINE SKILLS?
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING FUN MAYBE YOU ALSO WANTED TO FREE YOURSELF FROM YOUR OLD GRUDGES, TOO!

BUT EVEN SO, MANY DON'T LET THAT DISCOURAGE THEM FROM TRYING AGAIN.
SOME BELIEVE THEY'LL GET IT RIGHT THE NEXT TIME.
THAT FAITH IS SOMETHING WE ADULTS MUST TREASURE.
THAT FAITH IS THEIR "TALENT."
COMPARED TO SAIREI IT'S TRUE THAT THERE'S STILL A LOT BEHIND FESTA'S COOKING THAT COULD BE BETTER..
BUT RIGHT NOW, THERE'S SOMEONE WHO, SLIGHTLY AWARE OF THE DIFFERENCES IN STRENGTH BETWEEN THE TWO, THAT ALONE MAKES THIS SHOWDOWN WORTHWHILE.
NIZA-SAMA, YOU'VE BEEN A CHEF FOR A VERY LONG TIME
YOU'VE SEEN ENOUGH PEOPLE WHO'VE LEFT THE PATH ONCE THEY REALIZED JUST HOW SHORT THE FALL, RIGHT?

ALSO, IF YOU'RE REWARDED EVEN A TEENSY BIT, PEOPLE MIGHT THINK IT'S JUST OKAY, BUT YOU YOURSELF WOULD FEEL SKY HIGH!
I'M TOTALLY BITTER-MARBLE FLAVORED RIGHT NOW.
TO "LIKE" IS ALSO TO "DEVOTE ONESELF" TO SOMETHING!
IF YOU LIKE SOMETHING, THEN IT'S EASY TO SACRIFICE THE TIME FOR IT AND YOU CAN HOLD YOUR GROUND THROUGH EVEN THE ROUGHEST PATCHES
I DIDN'T HEAR NUTHIN ABOUT SHUTTING THE STORE DOWN!
ONE IN A HUNDRED OUT THERE MAY FIND MORIRIN'S POUCE TO BE BETTER, TOO!
DA-DUM!
どどん
DA-DA-DUM!
DA-DUMM?
どん
GRIP
IF FESTA'S LOOSE HERE THAN, FESTA ERASURE!
- THEN I RE-CAST MY VOTE FOR FESTA! AS AN INVEST-MENT FOR THE FUTURE!
FESTA
MORINA!


GRAND-FATHER..


I... STILL FEEL A LITTLE PATHETIC..
YOU DID IT, MORINA!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT SINCE WE WON!


...I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE THE LADY WHO MADE THIS DOLCE INTO SAIREI AS STAFF.
SIGH
I'LL RETHINK MY PLANS TO HAVE THIS TRATTORIA VACATED
THIS IS INDEED MY DEFEAT
...VERY WELL.
BUT THERE'S ONE CONDITION.
IN EXCHANGE...

THWOP
THWOP
THWOP
KYAAA!
SARA-CHAN'S BEING BURIED IN RED BEAN MOCHI!
WHERE'D ALL THAT COME FROM?!
HELPFUL
I'D RATHER SHUT DOWN THE SHOP THAN GIVE MORINA AWAY!
MALLOW!
I'LL NEVER LET YOU TAKE OUR MORINA AWAY!
AS IF!!
THEN VACATE THIS LO-CATION
IT'S OKAY, MALLOW-SAN.
GRAB

MORINAAA!
SOB
ぶわっ
IF NOT GOING MEANS FESTA WILL SHUT DOWN...
...THEN I'LL WORK AT SAIREI!
GAH! SARA-CHAN, WHAT'S WITH THE THUMBS-UP?!
YOU APPROVE OF STUFF LIKE THIS?!
KA-SHING
NONE!
SARA-CHAN, ANY OBJEC-TIONS?
THE GRAND-MASTER'S TAKEN THIS WAY OUTTA OUR HANDS